



# ST. AMBROSE PARISH

JANUARY 7, 2024 | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

[www.saintambroseparish.org](http://www.saintambroseparish.org) | Church Office ☎ 618-466-2921 | [office@saintambroseparish.org](mailto: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



What gift do you bring to present to Jesus as we continue to remember his birthday?

FR. STEVEN JANOSKI, Page 2

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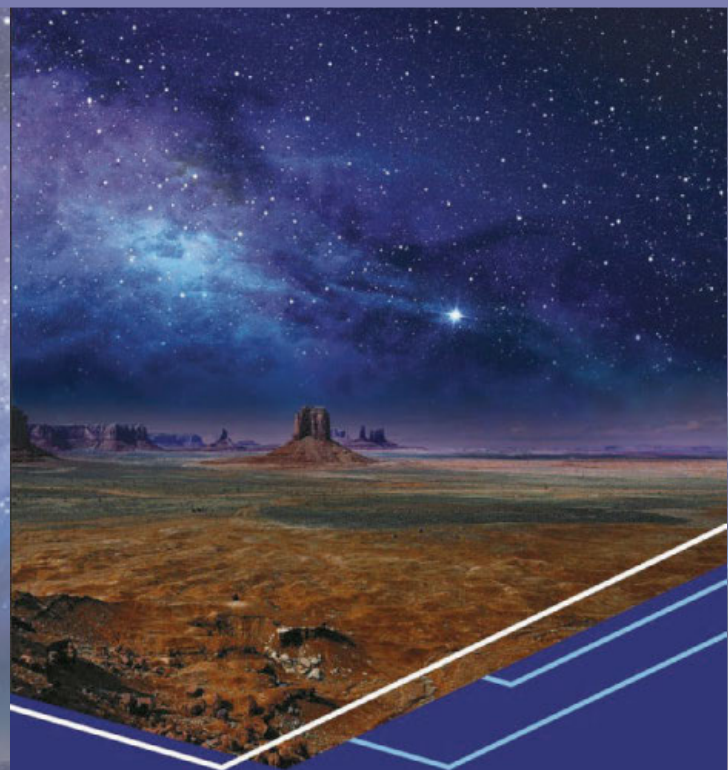
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## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." - Mt 2:1-2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1970 CCC.

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820 WEST HOMER ADAMS PARKWAY, GODFREY, IL 62035

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

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Ambrose Parish Family,

On this Feast of the **Epiphany**, we recall the gifts offered to the newborn King by the three magi from the East: gold, frankincense and myrrh. These gifts are very symbolic of the royalty of Jesus, the divinity of Jesus and the humanity of Jesus. Of course, we are all familiar with "The Little Drummer Boy" and his gift to the baby Jesus. What gift do you bring to present to Jesus as we continue to remember his birthday?

Many people in the parish have generously shared their gifts to make our **Advent** and **Christmas Season** meaningful and uplifting. I'd like to thank our **musicians**: John, Margaret, Cass, Mary, Christian, Phil and Nick. Special thanks to the cantors and all members of the **Choir** (traditional, guitar and children's). Thank you to the **Bethels** (Mary, Kelsey and Nick) for leading our children at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. To **Linda Wickenhauser** and her helpers who decorated the inside of the Church and to our parish landscapers who prepared the property for winter. Many thanks to the ladies who **deep cleaned** St. Ambrose and St. Michael Churches (especially **Jan** and **Mary**). Thanks to our St. Ambrose Community Outreach Organization for the gift bags for those who are homebound or living in skilled care facilities. Thanks to the Parish Staff for going above and beyond so often. Thanks to all who performed the various **ministries** and helped **clean up** after Masses. And thanks to all of you who made it all possible! The decor you see in Church this weekend will be taken down as we enter winter Ordinary Time on Tuesday of this week.

The **Christmas Season** ends on Monday, January 8 with the Feast of the **Baptism of the Lord**. At the 5:30 p.m. Mass, we will celebrate the **Rite of Baptism for Children** for **Collin & Ellie Heffington**, and **Paisley Pfeifer**. Other recent baptisms of children included: **Gavin Hayes** and **Brody & Wyatt Dooling**. Congratulations to them all!



I would also like to thank **Mike Lehman** who has served on the Parish Finance Council for many years. Mike will continue to assist the Council in the future with special projects.

**May God continue to bless you and those you love!**



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](mailto:deaconbillk@gmail.com)



*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](mailto:grgrymt1@icloud.com)

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

Your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

### Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

### Second Reading:

It was not made known to people in other generations  
as it has now been revealed  
to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:  
that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the  
same body,  
and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus  
through the gospel. (Eph 3:5-6)

### Gospel:

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?  
We saw his star at its rising  
and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)

**REMINDER:** The Parish School of Religion (PSR) resumes **January 14th**

Please join us for the Mass for the Military on **Thursday, January 11th at 6 p.m. at SSPP in Alton.**



Our next Baptism Prep Session is scheduled for **Sunday, January 28th at 11:30 a.m.** in the Pastoral Center.

**Questions?** Contact Deacon Jay at 618-466-2921 x8 or email at [jwackerly@dio.org](mailto:jwackerly@dio.org)

# 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, January 6 at 4:30 p.m.**

*St. Ambrose Parishioners*

**Sunday, January 7 at 8:00 a.m.**

*Juanita Farley, Robert Farley, and Happy 50th Anniversary  
to Jim & Nancy Heafner*

**Sunday, January 7 at 10:30 a.m.**

*Mary Roberts, Jim Gross, and Ralph Rowden*

**Monday, January 8 at 5:30 p.m.**

*Rick Farrell and Viola Davenport*

**Tuesday, January 9 at 8:15 a.m.**

*Jean Shearburn*

**Wednesday, January 10 at 8:15 a.m.**

*Joyce Janoski*

**Thursday, January 11 at 8:15 a.m.**

*Samuel D. Roberts and Special Intention for Jim & Nancy  
Heafner*

**Friday, January 12 at 8:15 a.m.**

*Max Heinz*

**Saturday, January 13 at 4:30 p.m.**

*Joe Certa, Sr., Dennis Olston, Jim Clark, and Dale Krepel*

**Sunday, January 14 at 8:00 a.m.**

*St. Ambrose Parishioners*

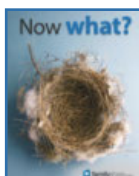
**Sunday, January 14 at 10:30 a.m.**

*Ruth Erthal, Louie & Jean Wiedman, and Ralph Rowden*



It is hard to believe that we are starting another new year. JOIN US for our next Women's Group January meeting on **Wednesday, January 10th at 9 a.m.** in the Community Center. Cara Paschal, Executive Director from Thrive Metro East, will be our speaker to discuss Hope clinic, Plan C, satanic Temple, Illinois legislation, tax dollars, and paying for abortions.

In February, we are going to have a fun event of a *High Tea* on **Wednesday, February 7th at 11 a.m.** in the Community Center. Presented by Marilyn Schwab, seating will be limited and you will need to make a reservation (at no cost). **Questions for either event or to RSVP for High Tea**, please contact Debbie Ellebracht at 618-972-5885.



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](mailto:2teach_1@msn.com) or call the Parish Office at 618-466-2921 if you would like to participate in our Empty Nesters group.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEKEND OF JANUARY 13/14	Eucharistic Ministers	Servers	Ushers	Lector
<b>Saturday at 4:30 p.m.</b>	Nancy Blair David Eckhouse Mary Eckhouse Lisa Heffington Richard Lucido Genevieve Roberts Susan Schmidt Thomas Schmidt	Leon Kerkemeyer Lucas Lacy William Monahan	A. Wayne Hensley Cathy McCune James Stephan Henry Vize <b>VOLUNTEER NOW</b> <b>VOLUNTEER NOW</b>	Carmen Serio
<b>Sunday at 8:00 a.m.</b>	Gwen Baalman Terry Croxford Anthony Joehl Alivia Noss Hailey Noss Carmen Serio Joseph Stephan Mary Jo Zykan	James Erwin Colton French Lily Yemm	James Baalman Allan Daniel Clarence Davenport Jeff Erwin Paul Krueger Stephen Mikoff	Linda Jun
<b>Sunday at 10:30 a.m.</b>	David Dornes Delfina Dornes Lisa Hayes Julie Schranck Sue Stirnaman Carla Totten Noah Wilkinson <b>VOLUNTEER NOW</b>	Sophie Hoefert Ella Schroeder Miles Schroeder	Robert Baird Stephen Hieke William Horn John Kline David Stafford Samuel Wilkinson	Minnie Stalker

**Epiphany Chalk** | by Paul Turner | Some Christians bless their homes on Epiphany each year. With chalk, they write an inscription on the inside lintel above the front door. The series of numbers, letters and crosses changes only slightly from year to year. For example, at the start of the year 2024, the line will read as follows: 20+C+M+B+24.



The four digits designating the new year appear at the beginning and end of the line. Because Epiphany comes so near the beginning of the new year, the numbers represent an annual renewal of God's blessing.

The letters have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. They also abbreviate the Latin words "*Christus mansionem benedicat.*" "May Christ bless this dwelling." The letters recall the day on which the inscription is made, as well as the purpose of blessing.

The crosses represent Christ, whom we invoke, and the saintliness of the magi. The inscription is made above the front door, so that all who enter and depart this year may enjoy God's blessing.

The month of January still bears the name of the Roman god Janus, the doorkeeper of heaven and patron of the beginning and end of things. This blessing adds a Christian dimension to the traditional observance of the first month. The inscription is made of chalk, a product of clay, which recalls the human nature taken by God's eternal word in this holy season.

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**BLESSED CHALK with the above information is available at the entrances to the Church this weekend for those who would like to bless their homes.**



# ST. AMBROSE CASH BASH

DRAWING ON FEBRUARY 10, 2024

TICKETS ARE \$100 EACH AND ONLY  
500 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD!

THERE WILL BE 2 EARLY BIRD  
DRAWINGS OF \$100 EACH ON  
JANUARY 15TH AND JANUARY  
29TH- SO BUY EARLY!

*The grand Prize  
Winner will win  
\$10,000*

Buy online at [www.SACASHBASH24.Givesmart.com](http://www.SACASHBASH24.Givesmart.com) or  
purchase in the Parish Office!



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Break free from your Pharaohs.

Are you tired of returning to the same 'modern Pharaohs' over and over again – overconsumption of social media, numbing your problems with alcohol, pornography, or binge-watching TV?

We start January 1:

[Sign Up for Free!](#)



### Exodus 90 – It's Never Too Late

What is Exodus 90? It's a 90-day journey through the Book of Exodus, diving deeper into understanding the similarities we share with the ancient Israelites and finding our path to freedom from our own 'modern Pharaohs' holding us back from true unity with God.

For 90 days, we focus on three core pillars: prayer, asceticism, and fraternity — a model witnessed to

us centuries ago by the desert fathers in the early Church. It's never too late to sign-up.

CLICK HERE <https://exodus90.com/>

God Bless, Deacon Jay



### St. Ambrose Catholic Church GUIDEBOOK & DIRECTORY

#### ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

St. Ambrose Parish has partnered with Guide Book Publishing to publish our annual Church Guidebook & Directory for our parish that will be updated and mailed directly to our parishioner homes.

This book will be the who, what, when, where and how of our parish. The book is being provided at **NO COST** to our church. **All costs are incurred through local advertising.**

Local businesses and parishioners are being contacted to advertise in the book. If you own or manage a business and would like information regarding advertising in our book, please contact Marianne Kempka Fuhrmann at 314.723.1982 or email her at [mkfuhrmann4@gmail.com](mailto:mkfuhrmann4@gmail.com)



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.

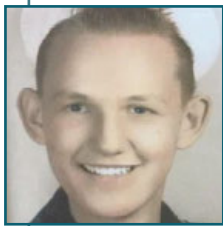
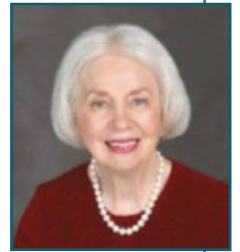
#### Wish List Items

- 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 the remainder of the 1st-4th grade wing

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALWAYS  
REMEMBERED

**Angela Mary (Kiel) Willoughby** passed away on December 15th, at the age of 87. Beloved wife to the late Joseph Victor Willoughby, wonderful mother of four daughters, grandmother, great-grandmother, and sister to six including parishioner Dorothy Johnes. She deeply loved her family, her close friends, her many pets over the years, and many in her community. Her memorial rosary service and funeral Mass will be held on January 6th at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Burlingame, CA. Memorials can be made in her honor to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and Greenpeace.



**Laurin E. Davis Jr.**, 86, died on December 28th. Beloved husband of Carolyn, father to three daughters including parishioner Laurie (Donald) Schmidt, grandfather, great-grandfather, friend, and Navy Veteran. He was a true craftsman and woodworker, making both indoor and outdoor furniture. Visitation and funeral services were held on January 3rd. He was laid to rest at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Godfrey with full military honors. Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



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



## WEEK #16 WINNERS

1st Place \$100 4CIOQ Trent Labrenz 162 pts.  
2nd Place \$50 CGINP Joan Anzalone 157 pts.  
3rd Place \$40 1ACFI Jim Grover 156 pts.  
4th Place \$30 4CDIS Karen Fessler 154 pts.  
Last Place \$25 HJTXZ Linda Pritchett 73 pts.

## WEEK #17 WINNERS

1st Place \$100 ALORU Karen Aldridge 184 pts.  
2nd Place \$50 1NQRU Ashley Lack 177 pts.  
3rd & 4th Place |Three-way tie| \$23.33 Each | 173 pts.  
CENQR Judy Clark, LNQRW Randy Pruetzel, and  
5ARTU Stephen & Cheryl Haas  
Last Place \$25 6ISYZ Diane Adams 51 pts.

Visit the Parish Office or the website for tickets  
[SAFootball23.givesmart.com](http://SAFootball23.givesmart.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.
Monica Ellebracht	Dr. Janis Robinson
Patti Freeman	Dr. William Robinson
Nina Giardina	Danny Selby, Air Force 
Natalie Gordon	Anthony Serio, Army 
Walt Gregory	Nicholas Smith, Navy 
Ruth Guntren	Sarah Stirton
 Haley Haar, Air Force	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](mailto: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.



The Gift of the Magi, Holy Family Parish's First Annual Epiphany Concert, will be held on **Sunday, January 7, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Holy Family Parish in Granite City.**

It is a festive celebration of music, including jubilant organ pieces, instrumental ensembles, and choral numbers from the HFP Choir and guests from the Alton Deanery and Father McGivney Catholic High School Choir.

**Free admission.** Questions? Contact Thomas Halbrook ([thomas@halbrook.net](mailto:thomas@halbrook.net)), Director of Liturgical Music at Holy Family.

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 (under the Quick Links tab) at [www.st-boniface.com](http://www.st-boniface.com) or email [Womensbreakfast24@gmail.com](mailto: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* | Optional weekends

- 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/](http://kh.snows.org/events/) or call 618-397-0584.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Be a **TOTUS TUUS MISSIONARY** in 2024  
with the diocese of Springfield in Illinois



MAY 29 - JULY 27

## MISSIONARIES WILL RECEIVE:

- Paid full-time employment
- Food, gas, and lodging all covered
- A trip to Indianapolis for the National Eucharistic Congress, fully paid for by the Diocese
- A daily opportunity to share Jesus with kids
- A week off
- Paid training
- 2 retreats to grow in faith
- Heaps and heaps of fun!

Every year, *Totus Tuus*, a popular program for Catholic students in grades first through twelve come to parishes all around our diocese. The Diocese of Springfield is now hiring *Totus Tuus* Missionaries for the summer of 2024! Faithful college-aged men and women are encourage to apply!



**Save the date for the Illinois March for Life and Mass** on Wednesday, April 17, 2024. Mass, 10 a.m., Sangamon Auditorium, on the UIS Campus, 1 University Plaza, Springfield. Noon, rally in front of the State Capitol, followed by a

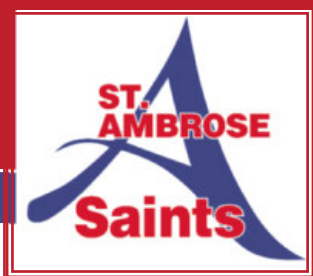
march around the State Capitol complex. The Mass, rally and march are intended for 7th-12th graders, college students, and adults. More details coming.

## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

Epiphany of the Lord

*"They fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."* – Matthew 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!



# ST. AMBROSE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

[www.stambrosegodfrey.org](http://www.stambrosegodfrey.org) | School Office ☎ 618-466-4216

**HELLO ST. AMBROSE COMMUNITY!**

## 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!

**Final Single Doors Replaced** | During the Christmas break, the last of our single doors were replaced. Through generous donors we have been able to replace all the exterior individual doors in the last 3 years!

**Cash Bash Tickets on Sale Now** | The Cash Bash ticket sales are live and on sale now! New this year, in place of the SCRIP program, each family is required to purchase/sell two tickets. There will be a place to denote the family who should receive the credit, so please make sure if someone else is purchasing for your family they put your name on the sale to ensure you get credit.

The drawing will take place on February 10, 2024. There will be two early bird drawings held on January 15th and on January 29th, so get your purchases in early!

**HOW IT WORKS** | All 500 tickets are placed in a tumbler and EVERY ticket is drawn out. Every 10th ticket drawn wins a cash prize of either \$100, \$250, or \$500! Every non-winning ticket gets put in to one FINAL BONUS ROUND for \$500

Purchase three different ways:

- Online: <http://sacashbash24.givesmart.com/>
- Text: SACASHbash24 to 76278 for a link to your phone
- In person: At the Parish Office

FROM THE DESK OF



**ROBERT BAIRD,  
PRINCIPAL**

**HAVE A  
GREAT  
WEEKEND!**

**Marquette Catholic HS Seeks Track and Field Coach** | MCHS is seeking a qualified boys and girls varsity track and field coach. Interested applicants should email cover letter and resume to Marquette Catholic AD, Brian Hoener, at [bhoener@mymchs.org](mailto:bhoener@mymchs.org)



### PRINCIPAL

Mr. Robert Baird  
[rbaird@stambrosegodfrey.org](mailto:rbaird@stambrosegodfrey.org)

### SCHOOL OFFICE STAFF

Jean Connoyer  
[jconnoyer@stambrosegodfrey.org](mailto:jconnoyer@stambrosegodfrey.org)

Emily Kribs  
[ekribs@stambrosegodfrey.org](mailto:ekribs@stambrosegodfrey.org)

### IT ADMINISTRATOR

Eli Hawkins  
[ehawkins@stambrosegodfrey.org](mailto:ehawkins@stambrosegodfrey.org)

### PARENTS ASSOCIATION

SAPA  
[sapa@stambrosegodfrey.org](mailto:sapa@stambrosegodfrey.org)

**January 12** | 2nd Quarter Report  
Cards Open | Spiritwear or SAPA  
Dress Down Pass Day

**January 15** | NO SCHOOL | Cash  
Bash Early Bird Drawing for \$100

**January 17** | 1:30 Early Dismissal

**January 31-February 2**  
Catholic Schools Week!



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