



SEARCHING  
SEEKING  
PRAYING  
TRUSTING

## Waiting for God

ADVENT 2019  
SAINT AMBROSE PARISH

### Waiting in Hope. Waiting for God.

**What are you waiting for?** Imagine if we spent the next four weeks of Advent waiting for God. In a focused and determined way, imagine if we spent these days actively searching, seeking, longing, watching and waiting for God.

**Think about your own experience of actively waiting.** My dad often waited in the garage for the mail to come. He would keep looking...watching...eagerly anticipating the mail truck to stop in front of the house. He would then work his way to the mailbox to find all the ads and a few bills. As funny as it is, imagine if we spent these days waiting for God. We would find God showing up all over the place and, in a wonderful way, experience the overwhelming presence of God this Christmas. Jesus desires to 'show up' and bring us the light, healing, mercy and peace we seek – we need.

Please take a few minutes to review this newsletter. It's filled with wonderful opportunities for all of us to use these Advent days to prepare our hearts and homes for the Lord.

### Wait in hope. Wait for God.

**In a very special way, thank you for all the ways you, and our community, put a face on Christ for so many.** Your goodness in helping us feed thousands at Thanksgiving, put coats on the backs of hundreds and hundreds of children in the city of Cleveland, along with our efforts to share the joy of Christ this Christmas with families in our region is a blessing beyond words. You give the gift of hope and God's love to those we care for and serve. God bless you.

**Thank you Jesus for YOU and our community.**

Father Bob Stec

**P.S. By the time you read this newsletter, you will see that the Catholic Works of Mercy building is just about complete.** This is a beautiful gift to our community thanks to a couple in our parish who offered a very generous gift. This was complimented by the generosity of a number of our members, along with Eric Engelke and Engelke Construction. It will help us better share the compassion of Christ with those in need. Thank you so much.



**Thank you  
JESUS**  
*In all things, give thanks!*

*During the month of November, we were called to be mindful of the abundant blessings of God in our lives. We can do this simple practice each and every day of the year!*

## A THOUGHTFUL INVITATION

The Advent and Christmas season provide many opportunities to extend a sincere invitation for someone to join you. Many are alone this season, or searching for hope. Invite them to join you for Mass, especially at Christmas. Reconnect with family, bond with friends, spread cheer with neighbors. It's as easy as saying "join me."

*We are a Catholic community of faith, centered on Jesus Christ who is everything for us!*

# Advent & Christmas SCHEDULE

## SACRAMENT OF *Reconciliation*

**Saturday, December 7, 14, 21**

9:00 – 9:30am

Join us Saturday mornings during Advent, Thursdays 9:00-9:30am; and always by appointment (330.460.7300). Additional times are on the first Friday of every month at 3:00pm Please join us for this healing

## ADVENT *Communal Penance*

**Tuesday, December 10:** 7:30 – 8:30pm

**Friday, December 13:** 1:00 – 2:00pm

Many priests will be available for the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance to hear individual confessions.

## BAMBINELLI *Blessing*

**December 14/15**

A beautiful family tradition that was started by Pope St. John Paul II. Bambinelli is Italian word meaning, "little baby [boy]." Celebrated on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent. Bring your Baby Jesus from your nativity scene on Dec. 14/15, at all the weekend Masses, so that your Baby Jesus can be blessed prior to placing Him in your manger. What a beautiful way to bring a family and parish tradition together.

## CHRISTMAS MASS *Schedule*

**Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24**

3:30pm Children's Christmas Pageant

4:00pm Church and Hilkert Hall

6:00pm, 8:00pm & 12:00 Midnight in Church (Music before Midnight Mass at 11:30pm)

**Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25**

8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00 noon

## NEW YEAR'S *Schedule*

**New Year's Eve - December 31**

Vigil of Mary, Mother of God

4:00pm & 5:30pm

**New Year's Day - January 1**

Mary, Mother of God 9:00am & 10:30am

*Gloria*  
Hope Was Born This Night  
CHRISTMAS 2019  
SAINT AMBROSE PARISH

## Advent Tea

**Saturday, December 7**

**11:00am – 2:00pm**

*in Hilkert Hall*

Join us for our 4th annual Advent Tea with guest speaker Romona Robinson. Her compelling story will inspire you to examine your own purpose – with a desire to walk in faith, not fear. Take some time for yourself, invite your family and friends, and spend an afternoon preparing your heart during the Advent season.

**TICKETS ARE \$18 PER PERSON:** Includes lunch with dessert, hot tea and drinks, a dynamic presentation by Romona Robinson, and a meaningful afternoon with close friends and family. Purchase tickets at Parish Life Center front office.

**Be a Hostess!** New online sign up for hostesses and group seating. Visit the web site to sign up and to indicate the name of guests at your table. You may also decorate your table if you wish!



## Living Nativity

**Sunday, December 15, 6:00-7:30pm**

**Enter into the Advent season and remember where it all began.** All are invited to join the Saint Ambrose community as we re-enact that joyful night where Heaven and earth collided and God gave us His most precious gift.

After this wonderful presentation, come for fun in Hilkert Hall with family activities, crafts and a chili bar with all the toppings! Bring your favorite Christmas dessert to share.



Live Animals • Food • Fun • Perfect Family Night



## NEW ADVENT BLOG!

If you are looking for a unique way to grow spiritually and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, visit our Advent Blog!

Members of our parish will be offering insight and reflection on the daily Scripture reading throughout all of Advent.

[www.StAmbrose.us/AdventBlog](http://www.StAmbrose.us/AdventBlog)



## Meet Cathy Clapper!

Cathy Clapper has been a Saint Ambrose parishioner for years and is very active in numerous ministries, especially Sarah's Circle, Healing Ministry, Prayer Group, and Stephen Ministry.



Cathy attended Stephen Ministry Leadership Training almost a year ago and since that time has been doing training for our commissioned Stephen Ministers. She is currently training a new group of ministers - Team 2 - which will be commissioned in late spring or early summer of 2020.

Cathy has amazing gifts and is always willing to share. Thank you so much for committing to living the life Jesus Christ wants: a life dedicated to others. Cathy shares her ministry this Advent each Tuesday night at our Healing Prayer Ministry in the Chapel at 7 pm. Come and share in this special time of prayer.

## Advent Kindness Pines

### Share in the spirit of Christmas...

Beginning the week of November 22 – December 15, there will be 3 Kindness Pines located at the entryways of the church filled with tags listing items for families in need in our community. Please consider taking a tag or two sharing the spirit of Christmas – the spirit of giving from the heart.

**The tags will give you all the directions and details!  
No need to wrap your requested gift, the parents like to do this for their children.**

To give them time to do this, please return all gifts to the designated bins at church entrances (with tag from tree taped to bag) by Sunday, December 15. If you have any questions, please call Catholic Works of Mercy 330.460.7303. Thank you.

## Tax-Wise Gifting

### FROM YOUR IRA

If you are age 70 1/2 or older, you can save on taxes and make a charitable rollover gift from your IRA to Saint Ambrose Parish.

With a direct transfer from your traditional IRA to a qualified charity (Saint Ambrose Parish) you can satisfy your minimum required distribution for the year. Your accountant or financial planner can help you decide if this option is right for you.

So many of our members have already taken advantage of this opportunity. It's tax-wise giving for you and so very helpful in support of our parish community.

Please call or email Carol Maline in our Business Office for more information (330.460.7336/cmaline@StAmbrose.us).

Thank you for all you do and give in support of our parish community.

# SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

GRIEF SHARE™



**If you have lost a loved one and grief is overwhelming you, our GriefShare program at Saint Ambrose is here to help.**

**Wednesdays 7-9pm and Thursdays 1-3pm  
in the Lehner Center.**

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nancy VanGieson at 330.225.7385 or  
Denise Golan at serenityd63@gmail.com

## Hope for the Holidays

**DECEMBER 19**

**7:00pm in Lehner Center, Luke**

Have you lost a loved one? Find comfort and peace during the holiday season. If you have any questions contact Monica at 330-460-7304 or MonicaK1@roadrunner.com.

### SAINT AMBROSE MUSIC MINISTRY

## Christmas Concert & Potluck

**Saturday, December 7**

*This Advent Season, prepare your heart for this time of faith and family through words and music!*

**4:30pm Mass**

**5:30pm Potluck Dinner in Hilkert Hall**

**7:00pm Christmas Concert in Church**

**POTLUCK INFO!** We'll provide the pizza! Last names A-I please bring a salad to share, last names J-R please bring a side dish to share, and last names S-Z please bring a dessert to share. For your convenience, all food can be dropped off prior to 4:30 Mass in Hilkert Hall. Please make sure your dish is clearly labeled with your last name.

## School News

Advent is the perfect time to say thank you and reflect upon the past years and the thousands of minds and hearts that have been opened to Jesus Christ who is Everything for us. **My favorite line of our parish's Advent theme is, "Living, caring, serving, sharing...Waiting for Jesus."** This is a beautiful description of the goals we have for each of our students and graduates with the ultimate goal of living our Gospel values as children of God.



**I am so proud of our students, faculty and staff!** The growth I have seen in our students from the beginning of school to this time is stunning. Students are caring for each other, holding each other accountable when they fall short, challenging themselves to learn and grow and showing confidence in sharing their unique gifts and talents.

As we continue to provide the best support for all of our students, **we pay special attention to our middle school students and the critical years of adolescence**, Advisory groups were established this year. Students in 6th-8th grades are divided into small groups. Each group has a faculty advisor that works with them throughout the year, providing mentorship, accountability and responsibility for the rigors of middle school and high school.

**We have been especially proud to welcome The Culture Project missionaries to Saint Ambrose School!** Parker and Emily have spent time with our Seventh and Eighth Grade students supporting our work in social emotional learning and helping the students navigate adolescence years with our faith at the core.



With financial aid and state of Ohio scholarships such as Jon Peterson, EdChoice Expansion and EdChoice available, more families can now afford the blessing of an amazing education offered at Saint Ambrose School!

At Littlest Angels Preschool and Saint Ambrose School, we offer academic excellence in a school environment that respects each student as an amazing child of God.

May this Advent be a blessed journey for you and your families.

With joy,  
Lisa Cinadr  
Principal



## School Christmas Concert Thursday, December 12, at 6:30 pm

All are welcome to the Saint Ambrose School K-8 Christmas Concert in the church. Doors open at 6:00pm, concert begins at 6:30pm. Before the concert, at 5:30pm, will be an art gallery in Hilker Hall with cookies and hot cocoa!



## We are excited for our new preschool home at Ambrose Crossing for the 2020-2021 school year!

When you drive to Saint Ambrose, you can see that Ambrose Crossing is coming along! It's going to be a great addition to our local community and serve our parish and school very well. Our future is extremely hopeful and bright!

The completion of the building is now scheduled for March. So we will end the 2019-2020 Littlest Angels school year using the Saint Ambrose campus.

The new building, and the additional space it creates both for Littlest Angels Preschool and Saint Ambrose School, is well worth the wait. It will take our great programs and amazing teachers into better space which will only make your child's experience even better.

**Thank you for choosing to send your child(ren) to SAS and LAPS.**

**Register your 3, 4, and 5 year olds today for the 2020-2021 school year!**  
[www.SaintAmbroseSchool.us](http://www.SaintAmbroseSchool.us)





## PSR

### What is my I.D.?

#### I am a Child of God!

**This year we are reminded that we are all children of God.** But do we really use our talents that God has given us? We are digging deeper into our own identities to help discover ways that we can help and inspire others with the strength of our character. Our PSR students are making a difference in our community by Christmas Caroling at Willowood Care Center and working on projects for the 12 Days of Christmas.

PSR students are continuing to display the Fruits of the Holy Spirit in the classroom. Some examples are the ways of Kindness, Patience, Generosity and Faithfulness. **We are constantly reminded of the blessings we have been given. Thank you Jesus!**

### Upcoming Events

#### Living Nativity

Sunday, December 15

#### 1st Grade Baptismal Workshop

Wednesday, January 8 at 4:30 pm

Saturday, January 11 at 9:00 am

Monday, January 13 at 6:30 pm

#### 3rd / 4th Grade Retreat

Saturday, January 25

#### 5th Grade Retreat

Saturday, February 8

Dare to be a Disciple

### RCIC

The next meeting for the RCIC process for children is on Wednesday, December 11. If you have a child or grandchild who needs to grow closer to the Lord and is in need to celebrate the Sacraments contact Janet at [JMajka@StAmbrose.us](mailto:JMajka@StAmbrose.us) or 330-460-7321.

## Ablaze

Each year the 6th, 7th and 8th grade PSR classes here at Saint Ambrose are brimming over with **smiling student faces, joyful volunteers and the love that can only come from Jesus Christ.** We are beyond grateful for each volunteer dedicating their time and talent to our Junior High students in an effort to help them encounter Christ in a real way!

**This year, ABLAZE is continuing the EDGE programming on Monday night PSR sessions.**

These nights will offer a space for both PSR and Day School students for fellowship and will provide a unique opportunity for students to make new like-minded friends and set their sights on serving the surrounding community!

In addition to these EDGE nights, there will be both **social events and service opportunities throughout the year to aide our young teens to grow closer to Christ and our parish family.** Please see the list below and spread the word to your young teen(s)!

## Ablaze Activities

**Open to all 6th, 7th and 8th Grade Students!**

#### December 16

Edge Night #3: *"The Greatest Christmas Social of All Time"*

#### January 20

MLK Day of Service  
11am - 2pm

**Please feel free to contact Janet Majka at 330. 460.7321 or [JMajka@StAmbrose.us](mailto:JMajka@StAmbrose.us) for more information on any/all ABLAZE events or if you are able to help!**

#### February 1-2

Souper Bowl of Caring, during all weekend Masses

#### February 10

Edge Night  
*"Love for Others"*



**ABLAZE**  
*Set our Hearts on Fire!*



**We need volunteers to "adopt a family" and help deliver random acts of kindness!**

It's simple... it's fun... and most importantly, it's significant in the life of someone in need!  
**We provide the gifts, the address, everything you need - you just deliver them to the families!**

**Email [LHomady@StAmbrose.us](mailto:LHomady@StAmbrose.us) by December 1 for more info or to volunteer!**

Funded by the generous #WeGiveCatholic donations on December 3!

# Hello from the Youth Ministry Office!

**Happy Advent! We've been having a great Fall Semester with all our high school teens...**

...from Confirmation sessions to service projects to FIAT nights and retreats, it's been a busy few months - and we look forward to even more fun, faith & fellowship throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons and beyond.



## Get involved!

### **December 8: Breakfast with St. Nick, St. Ambrose and Friends**

We need your help to spread Christmas cheer! We are looking for volunteers - please consider signing up to help with crafts, serve food, be an elf in the North Pole and much more!

### **January 23-25: March for Life Retreat**

Don't want to miss this one-of-a-kind retreat opportunity. We will drive through the night, come together for Mass at the Basilica, join thousands of people from across the country for the March for Life, and return home. Sign up [MyFIAT.us](http://MyFIAT.us)

## **Please consider joining us for FIAT nights in 2020!**

Sunday evenings starting with 5pm Mass followed by FIAT from 6-8pm in Hilkert Hall. Great food, friendship, discussion and growing in faith. More info at [www.myFIAT.us](http://www.myFIAT.us) or call the Youth Ministry Office at 330.460.7387.

## YOUNG ADULTS

### *I Thirst Thursday*

**Join our Young Adult Group on December 19 at the Brunswick Panini's.** Enjoy friendship, fellowship, laughter, support and growth in faith. Please join us at 7:00 pm as we discuss life, Christmas and why we believe in Jesus.



## Senior Ministry:

### **A CHRISTMAS GIFT TO ALL!**

**How old is "old"?** Not surprisingly, everyone has different ideas about what elderly age is or when old age begins. Medicare benefits begin at age 65, AARP starts accepting members at age 50, many senior discounts are aimed at those aged 55 or 60. The bottom line, there is no set-in-stone way of knowing when someone becomes a senior. Ultimately, each of us must decide for ourselves.

**Our seniors bring gifts of Experience, Wisdom, Love and Faith, they deserve respect.** I now realize that I might be older than a teenager, but that doesn't mean I'm old, ha! ha!

**Let us challenge each other during the Advent Season to reach out to those who have no family in the area or a neighbor looking for a friendly visit.** "Never Forgotten" is a term associated with our Veterans, their stories must be told and remembered, this is so true of the stories (possibly repeated stories you heard over the holidays from your parents or grandparents) Those stories too must "Not Be Forgotten."



### **Please join us for our weekly gatherings!**

- Yoga
- Lunch & Learn Programs
- Board Games
- Off-Site Travels
- Movies
- Pot-Luck Events
- Sing-A-Long
- Adoration
- Daily Mass
- Coffee & Donut Socials
- Countless hours of volunteering where needed on campus.



## Meet Trish Shaw!

Trish Shaw is one of our active parishioners who has definitely had an impact on others. Trish is involved in numerous ministries, including Culture of Life Committee, Hearts Afire Ministries, and Formed. Trish works with the Augustine Institute and was responsible for bringing Formed.Org to our parish years ago.

Trish's family with husband, Marty, and Gabbi, her senior daughter, is the focus of her life. The picture is from last year's Generation of Faith Christmas Cookie Baking Class with Gabbi. Thank you Trish for all that you do for Saint Ambrose. We truly appreciate all of your hard work and your God-given gifts.



## Wedding Fair

**JANUARY 11, 2020**

Saint Ambrose will be hosting a Wedding Fair on Saturday, January 11, 2020 for engaged couples who will be married at Saint Ambrose in the coming year. Since there are many details that need to be taken care of before your wedding day, we are honored to assist you in planning your special day. At the Wedding Fair, you will meet our Wedding Team that can help answer questions regarding documentation, music and logistics. Invitations will be mailed out or contact Helen at [HLanzarotta@StAmbrose.us](mailto:HLanzarotta@StAmbrose.us) to RSVP.



**Save the Date! January 18, 2020  
A DINNER FOR MARRIED COUPLES**

**"The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord."**

— Henri Nouwen

# Christmas Cookie Baking

**Young and old, we all love cookies!**

Bring all of your family generations to do something special together this Christmas season!



*Have a favorite recipe? Bring it to share!*

We have a fun afternoon planned to learn new recipes, share family traditions, and get new techniques. And of course...

**BAKE CHRISTMAS COOKIES TOGETHER!**

**December 14, 2019**

**1:00 pm in Hilkert Hall**

**Must RSVP by December 7 to Jane Baldwin at [JBaldwin@StAmbrose.us](mailto:JBaldwin@StAmbrose.us) or 330.460.7381**



**Fun for the whole family!**

## HEARTS of Hope

WIDOWS SUPPORT GROUP

**DECEMBER 10**

**7:00-8:00pm in Lehner Center, Mark**

It's Christ who stands with us always, and especially

when you commend your spouse to the Lord. Hearts of Hope is a group of widows who come together to share conversation, prayer, and community. Together with the Lord, our hearts will always find the help and the hope we need.

## Ministry Spotlight

### SHIELD OF FAITH DRAMA

An opportunity for adults to use their God-given talents of performing arts to perform God's word. The club gives a visual experience of scripture, encourages discussion, and increases understanding of God's word.



**For information, please contact Jane Baldwin, Spiritual Life Coordinator at 330.460.7381 or [JBaldwin@StAmbrose.us](mailto:JBaldwin@StAmbrose.us).**





NOVEMBER 2019

# ADVENT NEWSLETTER

WE ARE A CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF FAITH CENTERED ON JESUS CHRIST, WHO IS EVERYTHING FOR US

NONPROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BRUNSWICK, OH  
PERMIT #67

Sunday, December 8

## Breakfast with St. Nick, St. Ambrose and Friends

8:00 - 11:45am

**TICKETS:** \$7 General Admission (Under 2 Free!)

### TICKET INCLUDES:

Breakfast, Craft for each child, Picture with St. Ambrose,  
St. Nick and Santa in our Winter Wonderland!

### BREAKFAST INCLUDES:

Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Potatoes,  
fruit drink, coffee and water

BAKE  
SALE!



### BACK THIS YEAR: NORTH POLE!

The Parish Life Center and the Mother Teresa Room will be transformed into the North Pole for you to create wonderful family memories. It will be a virtual blizzard of goodness!

Proudly sponsored by our Knights of Columbus,  
FIAT and Littlest Angels Preschool!



Thanks to our Community Partners!



Our parish is blessed to have wonderful community partners that help support our great efforts to feed the hungry, care for those in need, and offer free family events for our community.

Join those who are doing great work supporting our Parish! Contact Jake at JBihari@StAmbrose.us