

*Come O Lord and set us free.
Bring us your peace.*

I heard this Advent song a few months ago. While the music caught my attention, the message spoke to my heart. **If there was ever a time we need the Lord to set us free from a long year**, a pandemic, the stress of life, the feeling of isolation and separation, along with the worry and confusion in our world, and I could keep going and going.

We need the Lord to come – quickly – and set us free. And when He comes, better said, when we let Him more fully into our lives, hearts, homes, and world, we will find His peace.

This is the prayer of Advent and the hope of Christmas. Come O Lord. Come quickly. **Come in our hearts and homes. Set us free from worry and fear.** Bring us your peace so we can share your peace with others.

- **Please take a some time to look through this edition of The Angelus.** It's filled with many wonderful opportunities, in-person and online, to help us use these Advent days to turn to the Lord and pray that He will come into our lives, our homes, and our community and that you may find the gift of Christ's peace.
- **Help spread the Good News. Invite someone you know to join us when we gather in prayer.** Our website contains a library of services and programs. Each weekend we stream all of our Masses. Give your friends a meaningful and precious gift, time with God. Send them to: www.StAmbrose.us/watchmass.
- **Watch for details about our Christmas Mass celebrations.** We have planned to increase the number of Masses, along with streaming to keep us all together yet safely spaced. Given the need to be flexible and responsive in our planning, we will release our complete Christmas plan on December 12/13. You will find it in the bulletin and online. We are working hard to make sure we can safely come together and celebrate the joy of Christmas.

Come
O LORD
SET US FREE. BRING US PEACE.

Thank you so much for your continued support of our parish community. Our pastoral staff is so grateful for your encouragement and supportive words. We are working hard to bring the care and compassion of Christ to our community and those in need. Thank you so much.

Our Advent and Christmas celebrations this year will be very different for you, your family and our parish community. What remains is the Hope and Promise of Christmas. That's why we use these Advent days to fervently pray, *"Come O Lord and set us free. Bring us your peace."* Jesus is the hope of Christmas. He is the one who can rescue and save us.

Be assured of my prayers for you and your loved ones. God bless you abundantly.



Father Bob Stec

P.S. Don't forget Project S.N.O.W. (Serving Neighbors – it's Our Way). If/when it snows, let's all work together to make sure that we shovel the drives and walks for all of our homebound and senior members. It's a nice gesture. It's thoughtful and kind. Even more, it's a way to keep them safe in moments of need.

A THOUGHTFUL INVITATION

The Advent and Christmas seasons 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* Monthly Reconciliation:

Wednesday, December 2 4:30 - 6:00pm

Tuesday, December 15 7:00 - 8:30pm

Friday, December 18 1:00 - 3:30pm

Many priests will be available for the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance to hear individual confessions. Please join us for this healing Sacrament.

BAMBINELLI *Blessing* December 19/20

A thirty year old tradition that started in Rome at the Vatican. Every family is invited to bring their "Baby Jesus" from their Nativity Scene to all weekend Masses and receive a blessing. Experience God's true joy and love that comes to us from the infant Jesus.

CHRISTMAS MASS *Schedule*

Christmas Eve - Thursday, December 24

3:30 Children's Christmas Pageant (Virtual)

4:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00pm 12:00 Midnight

Mass in Church and streamed in

Hilkert Hall/Chapel/Mother Teresa Room

4:15pm, 6:15pm Mass at Ambrose Crossing

Christmas Day - Friday, December 25

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

Mass in Church and streamed in

Hilkert Hall/Chapel/Mother Teresa Room

11:30am Mass at Ambrose Crossing

Join us for Mass online...invite everyone you know!

www.StAmbrose.us/watch-mass

Looking for something special to do this Advent?

Consider signing up for an:

...Online Book Discussion Group

...Online Faith Sharing Group

...In-person Book Discussion and Faith Sharing Groups

Once we find out who is interested, we will schedule times at your convenience. Contact Jane Baldwin at jbaldwin@StAmbrose.us

A Different sort of Advent & Christmas

We need Christmas. We especially need this Christmas. We need our Savior to come to us, free us, save us, and bring us peace.



The perfect Christmas gift we can give this year to our family and friends is Jesus Christ. So many are alone, lonely, struggling, sad, and annoyed that this year – this Advent and Christmas are different.

Many of our Advent and Christmas events and services will be online this year. Do a kindness for your family, neighbors, and friends by sending them an invitation to join you online. (www.StAmbrose.us)

If we all work together – inviting – sharing – we can fill your family and our community with the Joy and Hope of Jesus Christ – the gift we need at Christmas and always.

Some of the things you will find online:

...Christmas Concerts

...Mental Health Tips

...An Advent Message for Women from Brooke Taylor

...An Advent Message for Men from Len Howser of 95.5 The FISH

...The Christmas Pageant and Masses

Living Nativity & Christmas Lights!

Saturday, December 19 from 5:45 - 7:30pm

Begin the week of Christmas by focusing on the true reason for the season and how it all began. **Our Saint Ambrose PSR will lead us in a live reenactment of that Holy Night.** There will be carolers, music and live animals joining us.

NEW THIS YEAR! Family fun drive-thru display of lights, Christmas scenes, Santa, carolers, cookies, cocoa and so much more... all for free! Load up your families into your car and join us. The Living Nativity will occur 5:45 – 6:10 or so, with the drive through activities to follow until 7:30pm.



ADVENT CHALLENGE!

Ready to challenge yourself? Do something meaningful this Advent!

We have provided reflective, thought-provoking, feel-good and very doable challenges for you. The Advent Challenge will allow you to do wonderful things for yourself, your family and your community this season.

www.StAmbrose.us/Advent-Challenge

Meet Bill Zarefoss

"When I was hungry you gave me something to eat."

Jesus taught about the need to provide food and drink for those who are hungry and thirsty. He never gave many details about delivering the meals!!!! **That's where Bill Zarefoss comes into the picture.**



Our Community Meal team has really stepped up over the past seven months by providing on average of two meals a month to hundreds of people across our community. In a time gone by (last February), many would gather in person and a team would deliver meals to our homebound members. **Given all things COVID, we now deliver hundreds of meals.** Bill is a great blessing to the effort as he lines up the logistics to make sure tasty and nourishing meals are delivered to the homes/apartments by thoughtful and dedicated members.

Bill makes it look easy, and he would give all the credit 'to the team.' He spends a great deal of time helping us deliver on Jesus' mandate to feed the hungry and care for all in need.

God bless Bill and the Community Meal Cooking, Serving and Delivering Team. You are a great blessing to our parish. Your dedication is inspiring.

Advent Small Faith Groups

"The season of Advent is like springtime in nature, when everything is renewed and so is fresh and healthy. Advent is also meant to do this to us – to refresh us and make us healthy, to be able to receive Christ in whatever form He may come to us."

- SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA

Our small faith groups (online or in-person) give you the opportunity to discuss the presence of Jesus in our lives. **It is a special way to connect with others during this different season in our lives.**



If you would like to lead or join a group, reach out to Jane Baldwin, Spiritual Life Coordinator at JBaldwin@StAmbrose.us or 330.460.7381.

Wishing you and your family a safe and blessed Christmas season!

Please know our Parish is here for you. Contact us anytime. 330-460-7300



Music Ministry Christmas Concert

**Thursday, December 10
7:00pm - Virtual Event Only**

Ring in the joy of this season as we experience "Christmas through the Eyes of Joseph." Watch online on our parish website at StAmbrose.us/Christmas or tune in via Facebook.

Advent Kindness Pines

Share in the spirit of Christmas...

Now through December 10, 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. **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. Please return all gifts to the designated bins at church entrances (with tag from tree taped to bag) by Sunday, December 10. If you have any questions, please call Catholic Works of Mercy 330.460.7303. Thank you.



NEW THIS YEAR! Online Kindness Pines! Visit the website to buy your gift online. Quick and easy from the comfort of your home. www.StAmbrose.us/Christmas

Hope for the Holidays

Friday, December 11 at 7:00 pm

Have you lost a loved one? Please join us.

Parish Life Center, Mother Teresa Room

Find comfort and peace during this holiday season. Please join us for our second evening in the series "Hope for the Holidays."

Please RSVP to Monica at monicak1@roadrunner.com or call 330-460-7304.

School News Happy Advent!

As we begin this beautiful season of waiting in joyful hope, I recall the countless ways the Holy Spirit is alive and well, active and working in the hearts and minds of our school students, faculty, staff and families.

Our theme of *See the Good. Be the Good.* resonates with our parish's Advent theme. While this has been a challenging school year, there has also been a renewed and uplifting sense of "family" as we all have walked this journey together from Preschool through Eighth Grade. We pray every day as a school family asking for the Lord to be with us, to protect us and to bring us peace.



SAINT AMBROSE SCHOOL 2020-2021
AND LITTLEST ANGELS PRESCHOOL

"All things work for good for those who love God,
who are called according to His purpose."
ROMANS 8:28



I am so proud of our school family and grateful for the gift we share as the family of God. Staff and students care for each other, hold each other accountable when they fall short, challenge themselves to learn and grow and show confidence in sharing their unique gifts and talents.

This school year has been a gift of life and love, light and hope! We are REACHing to provide Everything for every student every day in re-imagined ways too - learning experiences and celebrations that are beloved traditions for our school for our school family. **One such**

example is celebrating school Mass in grade bands. These smaller celebrations allow our students to be at the Table of the Lord together in a more meaningful way as they sing and praise God. **We celebrated Vocation Awareness Week** with many prayerful activities including remote visits by Father Joshua Cochrac, Daniel Samsel who is studying to be a Franciscan Friar, and former Damascus missionary Angelo Rivera in addition to our own special priests here at Saint Ambrose. **We held outdoor parades for our First Responders and our Veterans** to show our appreciation and prayerful support for these special men and women. Deeper faith and emotional support, outdoor classes, expanded technology in classrooms, creative and out-of-the-box thinking and so much more keep our students doing their best learning and growing! **Our teachers and staff are truly heroic as they say "YES!" every day!**

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!

There is so much good at Littlest Angels Preschool and Saint Ambrose School! How blessed we are to provide academic excellence in a unique school environment that lovingly supports each child of God!

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

With joy,
Lisa Cinadr
Principal

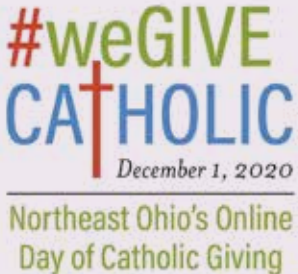


LET'S PROVIDE HOPE for our STUDENTS!

2020 is our year to SEE THE GOOD and to BE THE GOOD... we need YOU to be an ANGEL!

Please consider donating to Saint Ambrose Angels Annual Fund that provides so much support for our school and meets the needs of EVERY student. Your donation would make a world of difference.

On Tuesday, December 1st visit SaintAmbroseSchool.us and DONATE!



PSR News

"See the Good, Be the Good" is our theme for the 2020-2021 PSR year.

This year we are reminded that when we truly look for the Good around us it motivates us to be the Good for others. God calls each of us to be his disciples and to help those who are in need through our own words and actions.

We are looking deeper into ways we can model and exemplify the good in our own families, parish and community.

Our PSR team has been working hard this year to help meet the needs of our students and their families during these unprecedented times. We introduced a new model of PSR called "Family of Faith". We gather our students and families together once a month by grade level for an in-person session focused on topics and Catholic teachings relating to our world today.

We need to recognize and appreciate all of our PSR catechists who have gone above and beyond to help in offering virtual sessions for our students. These amazing volunteers have learned the technology and put together meaningful sessions for all of our students. Thank You Jesus for their commitment to our students and families.



We are continuing to focus and display the Fruits of the Holy Spirit in our new virtual classrooms. Some examples are the ways of Peace, Generosity and Faithfulness. We are constantly reminded of the blessings we have been given. Thank you Jesus!

Watch for our Virtual Mini VBS sessions focused on Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas.



Children's Christmas Pageant
"An Unexpected Christmas"

Thursday, December 24 at 3:30pm

Watch our well-loved Christmas Pageant virtually on Christmas Eve!

Online at StAmbrose.us

Ablaze

Open to all sixth, seventh and eighth grade parish and school students.

We have been busy building a solid junior high program for all of our students offering many different opportunities to grow in their faith. Weekly Embark Service days have been a huge success with students performing service tasks for our parish community. The sessions offer the students a chance to work, share their gifts and an opportunity to join together in small group setting. We will continue to offer these sessions throughout the year.

Thank you to Kristie Zwiener, our new Junior High Volunteer Service Coordinator for seeing the vision and executing the plan. We are so blessed to have her join our team.

Upcoming Junior High Programming

Thursday, December 3 | Advent Bible Study Kicks Off
Monday, January 18 | MLK Day of Service
Tuesday, February 9 | Edge Social Nights

Please feel free to contact Janet Majka at 330-460-7321 or JMajka@StAmbrose.us.



Upcoming Events Living Nativity

Saturday, December 19th

3rd / 4th Grade Retreat
Saturday, January 23

5th Grade Retreat
Saturday, February 6
Dare to be a Disciple

RCIC

The next meeting for the RCIC process for children is on Wednesday, December 17. 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 or 330-460-7321.



Hello from the Youth Ministry Office!

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

...from our new Confirmation Small-Group 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.



"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

Please consider joining us for FIAT nights in 2020!

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



Hearing a talk at a FIAT night



Our teens doing a fun and socially distant team builder



FIAT Teens Helping at the Community Day of Service

Young Adults

Calling all young adults in your 20's & 30's – be sure to join the Saint Ambrose Young Adults Facebook group for additional updates and details!

SOTE.life is a faith based Social Media platform

to get positive, uplifting messages to help you grow in your faith. No more 'doom scrolling', no politics... just positive, faith-based posts! We are working with a developer to build out this APP and need users and content-creators to sign up! **Visit www.sote.life or visit the app to create an account.**



Meet Vic Urzycki

Vic has been a member of our parish for many years and has been involved in a number of different ministries. From our Building & Grounds team to our Catholic Works of Mercy Outreach team to our Ushers Ministry, Vic is everywhere! **He and his wife Jan are a great blessing to our parish community!**

This December, Vic will be retiring from his Usher ministry and we are looking for someone to help train, coordinate and assist with this ministry. **If you are interested in learning more please contact Vic at 216.408.5544 | Vic.stambrose@gmail.com**

December Young Adult Events

December 17th | Details TBA

Plan to join us for a relaxing evening together as we celebrate the joy of the season! Stay tuned for more details!

Christmas Service Project

Help spread the joy of the Christmas season with someone in need!

SAINT AMBROSE
YOUNG ADULTS

Senior Ministry: Holiday Events

We are very blessed to have a wonderful Senior Program for members of our community, and we invite you to share in Christmas Joy with us. There is no better way to prepare your heart for the Lord than to gather with friends for these Advent and Christmas celebrations.

We need Advent and we need the Lord!

Senior Advisory Board Members
& Helen Sheridan

Join us for Coffee & Donuts

Tuesday, December 1, at 9:00am in the Mother Teresa Room

Enjoy a casual morning catching up with friends over a hot cup of coffee and of course some sweet donuts.

Advent: A Season of Peace or a Time of Angst

Thursday, December 10, at 11:00am with Fr. Andrew Hoover

Which is it for you, and which should it be? The answer may surprise you. Join Fr. Andrew for a time of teaching, reflection, and prayer as we explore the opportunity and the call on our lives often overlooked in the Season of Advent. A lite lunch will follow along with refreshments. Please RSVP Helen Sheridan.

Lunch & A Movie

**Saturday, December 19 at Noon
Mother Teresa Room**

We'll start with a Brown Bag Lunch, we will provide refreshments and fresh popped popcorn while we enjoy a movie called **A Dog Named Christmas**, based on the best selling novel by Greg Kincaid. Please RSVP Helen Sheridan to reserve your spot!



Tax-Wise Gifting FROM YOUR IRA

In this season of giving, consider making a year-end gift to our parish in gratitude for all the blessings you have received. As you plan to make the most of your charitable donations in 2020, know that we gratefully accept gifts of cash and appreciated assets such as stocks or bonds.

Even if you don't itemize your taxes, because of the new stimulus package passed by Congress, qualified charitable donations up to \$300 for individuals may be tax-deductible. The CARES Act legislation suspended the limitation on qualified charitable contributions of cash, allowing for a current year deduction up to 100% of AGI. This provision is in effect only for the 2020 tax year.

And, if you are 70 ½ or older, you may be able to make a gift of a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA that will help us in our ministry and reduce your taxable income. Talk to your advisors and IRA administrators for more information and to be sure that your IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution gift is made directly from an IRA to a qualified charity such as our parish.

Questions? Contact Jake Bihari in our parish office at (330)460.7300 or via email at JBihari@StAmbrose.us

Wedding Fair Luncheon

JANUARY 17, 2021

Saint Ambrose will be hosting a Wedding Fair 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 Kim at KNemet@StAmbrose.us to RSVP.

**Save the Date! February 13, 2021
WORLD MARRIAGE DAY MASS & SOCIAL**

HEARTS of Hope

WIDOWS SUPPORT GROUP

Our hope is always in the Lord.

Tuesday, December 8, 7:00-8:00pm

Via Google Meet
RSVP to LCinadr@StASchool.us

All are invited to come and enjoy our new friendship.

Please join us.



NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2020

ADVENT NEWSLETTER

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

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#weGIVECATHOLIC

with the Catholic Community Foundation December 1, 2020

GIVE A GIFT THAT CAN'T BE BOUGHT...

LET'S GIVE HOPE!

SUPPORTING OUR 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



"Words are not enough to express what joy, comfort, and soul touching inspiration you have given me through your thoughts and prayers. Each day, between the gifts and notes and prayers, were so uplifting. Thank you so very much."



Do something meaningful this Advent Season!

Give someone a little extra of God's love, care and kindness this season.

During the 12 days leading up to Christmas, we deliver these random acts of kindness. It's simple... it's fun... and most importantly, it's significant in the life of someone in need! Can you help? We provide the gifts, the address, everything you need - you just deliver them to the families.

What a wonderful opportunity to give back and be reminded of the TRUE reason for this Christmas season.



GIVE! Tuesday, December 1

Support the 12 Days of Christmas project by participating in the #WeGiveCatholic day of online giving.



"The gifts left on our porch were a lovely surprise and we found ourselves looking forward to it every day! We enjoyed all the gifts and your thoughtfulness."



VOLUNTEER!

Please contact Lisa at Lhomady@stambrose.us by December 1 if you are interested in volunteering or would like more information.

Everyone has a gift to share.

God has blessed each of us with wonderful abilities and talents.

Give God a wonderful gift this Christmas (and throughout the year) by serving and assisting in one of our parish programs and ministries. Our parish needs your help.

Learn about some of the great ways you can get involved by going online to stambrose.us/stewardship.

Lasting Impact

Did you know... that your Lenten Rice Bowls (back in April) continue to help provide monthly rice, beans and oil for about 130 families in our Mission Community in the Dominican Republic.

AND...your generosity last February for the Souper Bowl of Caring has helped support our monthly (and additional) Community Meal Program.

God bless you for your goodness!

StAmbrose.us/We-Give-Catholic on Tuesday, December 1