

<b>Saint Joseph's, Saint Anne's &amp; Holy Family And Saint Patrick's</b>
<b>7<sup>th</sup> December 2025, Second Sunday of Advent, Year A</b>
Served By The Discalced Carmelites
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7 <sup>th</sup> Of December 2025, Second Sunday Of Advent	
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Isaiah 11:1-10
Responsorial Psalm	Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	Romans 15:4-9
Alleluia	Luke 3:4, 6
Gospel	Matthew 3:1-12

**1st Reading - Isaiah 11:1-10**

1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the root of Jesse: and a flower shall rise up out of his root.  
 2 And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: the spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the spirit of counsel and of fortitude, the spirit of knowledge and of Godliness.,  
 3 And he shall be filled with the spirit of the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge according to the sight of the eyes, nor reprove according to the hearing of the ears.  
 4 But he shall judge the poor with justice, and shall reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. And he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth: and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked.  
 5 And justice shall be the girdle of his loins: and faith the girdle of his reins.

6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb: and the leopard shall lie down with the kid. The calf and the lion and the sheep shall abide together: and a little child shall lead them.  
 7 The calf and the bear shall feed, their young ones shall rest, together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
 8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp: and the weaned child shall thrust his hand into the den of the basilisk.  
 9 They shall not hurt, nor shall they kill in all my holy mountain: for the earth is filled with the knowledge of the Lord, as the covering waters of the sea.  
 10 In that day, the root of Jesse, who standeth for an ensign of the people, him the Gentiles shall beseech: and his sepulchre shall be glorious.

**Responsorial Psalm - Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17**

R. (cf. 7) Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

1 Give to the king thy judgment, O God: and to the king's son thy justice:  
 2 To judge thy people with justice, and thy poor with judgment.

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

7 In his days shall justice spring up, and abundance of peace, till the moon be taken sway.  
 8 And he shall rule from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

12 For he shall deliver the poor from the mighty: and the needy that had no helper.  
 13 He shall spare the poor and needy: and he shall save the souls of the poor.

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

17 Let his name be blessed for evermore: his name continueth before the sun.  
 And in him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed: all nations shall magnify him.

R. Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.

**2nd Reading - Romans 15:4-9**

Brothers and sisters:  
 4 For what things soever were written, were written for our learning: that through patience and the comfort of the scriptures, we might have hope.  
 5 Now the God of patience and of comfort grant you to be of one mind one towards another, according to Jesus Christ:  
 6 That with one mind, and with one mouth, you may glorify God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
 7 Therefore receive one another, as Christ also has received you unto the honour of God.  
 8 For I say that Christ Jesus was minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers.

9 But that the *Gentiles* are to glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: Therefore will I confess to you, O Lord, among the *Gentiles*, and will sing to your name.

### Alleluia - Luke 3:4, 6

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

4 Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:

6 all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel - Matthew 3:1-12

1 And in those days came John the Baptist preaching in the desert of Judea.

2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

3 For this is he that was spoken of by Isaiah the prophet, saying: A voice of one crying in the desert, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.

4 And the same John had his garment of camels' hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins: and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

5 Then went out to him Jerusalem and all Judea, and all the country about Jordan.

6 And were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 And seeing many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them: You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

8 Bring forth, therefore, fruit worthy of penance.

9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham for our father. For I tell you that God is able of these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

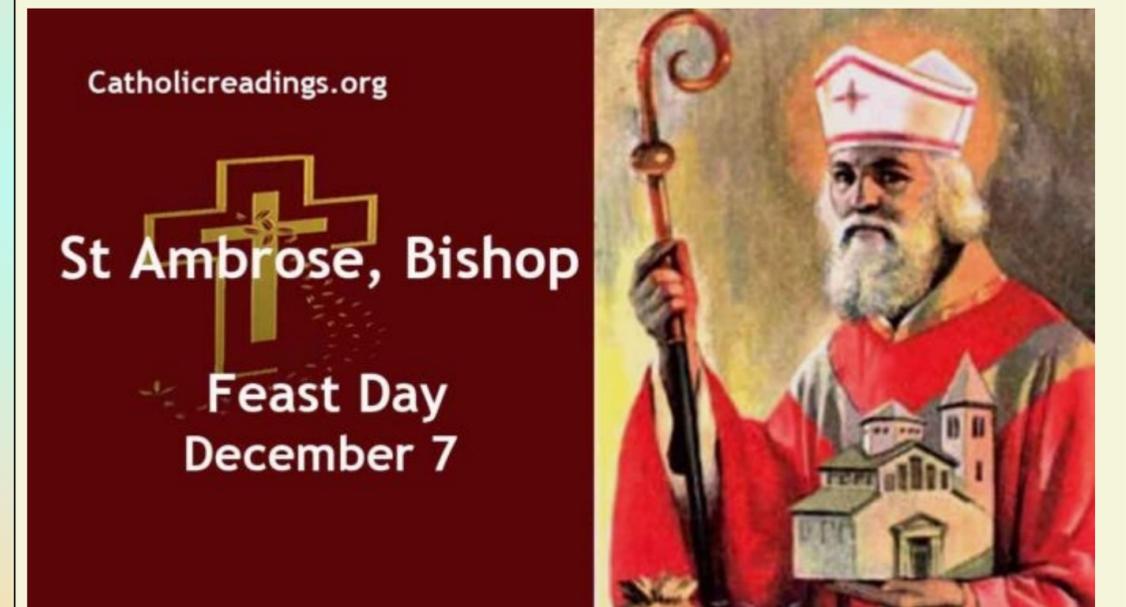
10 For now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not yield good fruit, shall be cut down, and cast into the fire.

11 I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

12 He has a fan in his hand, and he will thoroughly cleanse his floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.

### Saint Of The Day

#### St Ambrose, Bishop Biography



#### St Ambrose, Bishop - Feast Day - 7<sup>th</sup> Of December 2025

Date of Birth	339 AD
Place of Birth	Trier, Germany
Profession	Bishop of Milan
Place of Work	Italy
Date of Death	April 4 397
Place of Death	Milan, Italy
Feast Day	7 <sup>th</sup> Of December
Canonization	Pre-congregation
Patron Saint of	Beekeepers, Beggars, Learners, Milan

#### St Ambrose's Life History

St. Ambrose, born into the Roman nobility as the second son of the prefect (imperial viceroy) of Gaul, had a distinguished upbringing.

Educated in law, literature, rhetoric, the classics, Greek, and philosophy in Rome, Italy, he was born in the official residence at Augusta Treverorum (now Trier, Germany).

Following his father's death, Ambrose was raised in Rome, residing in a palace visited by the clergy, alongside his widowed mother and his elder sister Marcellina, who was a nun.

Promoted to the governorship of Aemilia-Liguria around 370 AD, Ambrose resided in Milan. In 374 AD, to his surprise, the people of Milan acclaimed him as their bishop after the former

bishop's death. Attending the election to prevent conflicts between the Nicene Church and the Arians, Ambrose, though not baptized or trained in theology, was unexpectedly urged by the assembly to assume the role of the next bishop.

Initially resistant, Ambrose attempted to evade the responsibility by running and hiding, but he was ultimately revealed by a colleague.

Within a week, he underwent baptism, ordination, and consecration as the Bishop of Milan on 7<sup>th</sup> Of December, 374. Despite his origins in a well-connected yet obscure senatorial family, Ambrose, as the bishop of Milan, wielded significant influence over the cultural and political landscape of his time. St. Ambrose tirelessly fulfilled all the responsibilities of a pastor, displaying abundant sympathy and charity. He was gentle and accommodating in matters of lesser significance but resolute and unwavering in matters of principle. In his role as a bishop, St. Ambrose generously contributed all his land and money to assist the poor, garnering widespread popularity and at times yielding more political influence than even the emperor. In 384 AD, he successfully opposed a plea for tolerance from pagan members of the Roman senate, led by his relative Quintus

#### **Aurelius Symmachus.**

Between 385 AD and 386 AD, St. Ambrose fearlessly confronted Emperor Valentinian II and Empress Justina, thwarting their impious attempt to allocate one of the churches in Milan to the Arians. The growing influence of the Arians posed challenges for Ambrose, as a significant number of individuals, including clergy, laity, and military personnel, had embraced Arianism. Facing orders to appear before a council, St. Ambrose adamantly refused and eloquently defended the Church, expressing, "If you demand my person, I am ready to submit: carry me to prison or to death, I will not resist, but I will never betray the church of Christ.

I will not call upon the people to succour me; I will die at the foot of the altar rather than desert it. The tumult of the people I will not encourage: but God alone can appease it."

As a bishop, Ambrose convened and presided over numerous theological councils focused on combating heresy. He also provided refuge to Saints Ursus and Alban of Mainz, aiding their escape from Arian persecution in Naxos and facilitating their mission to evangelize in Gaul and Germany. Despite opposition from the imperial court due to his religious principles, Ambrose was sought after to intervene and dissuade Magnus Maximus from invading Italy, achieving success in this diplomatic endeavour. In 388 AD, he rebuked Emperor Theodosius for punishing a bishop who had burned a Jewish synagogue. Additionally, in 390 AD, Ambrose imposed public penance on Theodosius for his role in the massacre of citizens during a riot in Thessalonica.

He engaged in theological studies under Simplician, a presbyter in Rome. Armed with his newfound knowledge, coupled with proficiency in Greek, he dedicated time to exploring the Old Testament and Greek literature.

Incorporating these insights into his preaching, St. Ambrose's eloquence left a lasting impression on St Augustine of Hippo, who had previously held a low opinion of Christian preachers.

A source of solace and friendship, Ambrose supported and consoled St. Monica through all her trials.

Monica regarded Ambrose as "an angel of God" who transformed her son, Augustine, guiding him towards a deep conviction in Christ. In 387 AD, Ambrose baptized Augustine, marking a profound transformation in the latter's life.

Ambrose's unique interventions were tempered by his steadfast loyalty and diplomatic acumen, notably demonstrated in official visits to the usurper Maximus at Trier in 383 AD and 386 AD. Despite the disapproval of the imperial court regarding Ambrose's religious principles, he was sought after to mediate and dissuade Magnus Maximus from invading Italy, and he achieved success in this diplomatic endeavour.

St. Ambrose died on April 4, 397, and Simplician succeeded him as the bishop of Milan. St. Ambrose's relics rest in the Church of St. Ambrogio in Milan, alongside the remains of Saints Gervase and Protase.

Known for his generosity to the poor, St. Ambrose treated them on par with the wealthy, viewing such acts as a fair distribution of God's resources intended for everyone.

He brought about reforms in the structure and conduct of public worship, emphasizing flexibility in liturgy.

His guidance to St. Augustine of Hippo, advising adherence to local liturgical customs, gave rise to the popular phrase, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." St. Ambrose exemplified this principle, sharing that he fasted on Saturdays in Rome but not in Milan.

St. Ambrose authored numerous significant writings and hymns, credited with composing the Ambrosian chant and beautiful hymns like "Aeterne rerum Conditor" ("Framer of the earth and sky") and "Deus Creator omnium" ("Maker of all things, God most high"). In 1298, he was declared a great Doctor of the Latin Church by Pope Boniface VIII.

He is recognized as the patron saint of beekeepers, candle makers, chandlers, honey cake bakers, schoolchildren, students, security personnel, and wax melters in the Archdiocese of Milan, Italy.

#### **Other Saints Of The Day**

- St Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Saint John the Silent
- Saint Maria Giuseppe Rossello
- Saint Sabino of Spoleto
- Saint Burgundofara
- Saint Charles Garnier
- Saint Athenodorus of Mesopotamia

St Athenodorus of Mesopotamia was also known as Athenodoros. During the persecutions of Eleusis and Diocletian, he was sentenced to be burned at the stake in 304 AD in Mesopotamia, but the fire would not light.

They tried to behead him but the executioner dropped dead when he approached Athenodorus. While another solution was sought, Athenodorus began to pray, and he died quietly.

#### **Saint Antonius of Siya**

St. Antonius of Siya, born in Archangel (Arkhangelsk or Archangelsk), Russia, in 1556 AD, entered matrimony with the daughter of a prosperous merchant who employed him.

Relocating to Novgorod for business, he became a widower. Subsequently, he assumed the roles of a monk in Kensk and a hermit in the forest near the White Sea.

His esteemed piety attracted followers, leading the Prince of Moscow to establish a monastery for them.

Despite attempting to retire and live as a hermit in his later years, Antonius found that his fellow monks continued to follow him.

**Blessed Humbert of Clairvaux**

Blessed Humbert of Clairvaux died in 1148 AD. He served as a Benedictine monk at Chaise-Deux and later became a monk at Clairvaux Abbey in 1117. Appointed as the prior at Clairvaux by St. Bernard, he subsequently became the abbot at Igny, France, in 1127. Despite his attempts to return to Clairvaux, Bernard, with the threat of monastic excommunication, directed him back to Igny. At Humbert's funeral Mass, Bernard delivered a poignant homily.

**Saint Agatho of Alexandria**

St Agatho of Alexandria was martyred in 250 AD in Alexandria, Egypt. He was a soldier in Alexandria, Egypt, and also a martyr.

When he prevented a mob of pagans from desecrating the bodies of Christian martyrs killed in the persecutions of Decius, the mob dragged him to court where he confessed to being a Christian himself.

**Saint Servus the Martyr**

St Servus the Martyr was an African born to the nobility. A layman, he was tortured and murdered in the persecutions of the Arian Vandal King Hunneric for adhering to orthodox Christianity. He was beaten and then dragged over stones until dead in 484 AD in North Africa.

**Saint Buithe of Monasterboice**

St Buithe of Monasterboice was also known as Buithe mac Bronach or Boethius, Buite. He was born in Scotland and died in 521 AD.

He was a pilgrim to Rome who studied in Italy, then returned to Scotland to work as a missionary to the Picts.

**Saint Nilus of Stolbensk**

St Nilus of Stolbensk died in 1554 AD. He was a spiritual student of St Sabas of Pskov and also a hermit in the forests in the Tver region. He attracted so many would-be students that he moved to a deserted island in Lake Seliguer.

**Saint Victor of Piacenza**

St Victor of Piacenza died in 375 AD. He was the first bishop of Piacenza, Italy, a flock he served for over 50 years. Additionally, he was a staunch opponent of Arianism and also attended the Council of Sardica.

**Saint Geretrannus of Bayeux**

St Geretrannus of Bayeux was a sixth-century bishop of Bayeux, France.

**Saint Diuma**

St Diuma was born in Ireland and died in 658 AD. He was a missionary and evangelizing bishop in Mercia, England. The modern town of Peterborough, England, grew up around a monastery he founded.

**Saint Martin of Saujon**

St Martin of Saujon died in 400 AD. He was a spiritual student of St Martin of Tours and a founder of the monastery of Saujon, France.

**Saint Anianus of Chartres**

St Anianus of Chartres was also known as Agnan of Chartres. He was a fifth-century bishop of Chartres, France.

**Saint Urban of Teano**

St Urban of Teano died in 356 AD as bishop of Teano, Campania, Italy.

**Saint Polycarp of Antioch**

St Polycarp of Antioch was martyred in Antioch.

**Saint Theodore of Antioch**

St Theodore of Antioch was martyred in Antioch.

**Mass Times For the weekend**

Saturday Night Mass Times	
Saint Josephs	5:30pm
Sunday Mass Times	
Saint Joseph's	9:30am
Saint Anne's & Holy Family	11:00 am
Saint Patrick's Ryhope	9:30 am

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