

2nd Sunday of Advent Year A & Feast of St. Ambrose



Dear beloved Parishioners,

As we enter the second week of Advent, the Scriptures draw our hearts toward **hope and renewal**. Isaiah offers that memorable image: “*A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse.*” Even when life feels cut back or worn down, God brings forth new life from what seems lifeless. Advent invites us to trust that God is quietly planting new beginnings in us—often in the places we least expect.

In the Gospel, John the Baptist stands in the wilderness with his bold and urgent invitation: “*Prepare the way of the Lord!*” His message is not meant to frighten us, but to awaken us. Our Advent preparation is not about doing more but about making room—allowing the Lord to straighten what has grown crooked and helping His grace bear fruit within us.

St. Paul reminds us that Scripture is given “for our instruction,” so that we may **abound in hope**. In a world often marked by division, anxiety, and uncertainty, Advent calls us to become signs of Christ’s peace—welcoming one another as Christ Himself has welcomed us.

This weekend, we also joyfully celebrate the **Feast of St. Ambrose**, our parish patron. St. Ambrose was a gifted bishop and teacher who helped guide the Church through a challenging century. His life shows us what single-hearted devotion to Christ looks like. His writings still inspire, and his prayers—quiet and unseen—continue to support us and draw us closer to Jesus, risen and eternal.

And today, we celebrate another blessing: the **70-year his-tory of our parish**. We gather with gratitude—for the people who built this community, for the priests and bishops who shepherded it, and for the countless acts of faith that have shaped these decades. Like any good celebration, there will be plenty of food, plenty of friends, and plenty of reasons to give thanks.

As we light the second candle of Advent—the Candle of Peace—may St. Ambrose intercede for us, and may the Lord renew our hearts, straighten our paths, and prepare us to welcome Him with joy.

In gratitude,

Fr. Albert with Msgr. Mike