

St. Ambrose Parish

Our 101st Year!
JANUARY 1, 2017
BEEHIVE

World Day of Peace Message from Pope Francis **Nonviolence: a Style of Politics for Peace**

The following is an abstract from the Annual World Day of Peace Message. It was issued at the Vatican by Pope Francis on December 8, 2015. For the complete text go to vatican.com. This is the 50th year that our Pontiffs have issued such a message.

At the beginning of this New Year, I wish peace to every man, woman and child, and I pray that the image and likeness of God in each person will enable us to acknowledge one another as sacred gifts endowed with immense dignity. Especially in situations of conflict, let us respect this, our “deepest dignity”, and make active nonviolence our way of life.

On this occasion, I would like to reflect on nonviolence as a style of politics for peace. I ask God to help all of us to cultivate nonviolence in our most personal thoughts and values. May charity and nonviolence govern how we treat each other as individuals, within society and in international life. When victims of violence are able to resist the temptation to retaliate, they become the most credible promoters of nonviolent peacemaking. In the most local and ordinary situations and in the international order, may nonviolence become the hallmark of our decisions, our relationships and our actions, and indeed of political life in all its forms.

A broken world

While the last century knew the devastation of two deadly World Wars, the threat of nuclear war and a great number of other conflicts, today, sadly, we find ourselves engaged in a horrifying world war fought piecemeal. It is not easy to know if our world is presently more or less violent than in the past, or to know whether modern means of communications and greater mobility have made us more aware of violence, or, on the other hand, increasingly inured to it.

In any case, we know that this “piecemeal” violence, of different kinds and levels, causes great suffering: wars in different countries and continents; terrorism, organized crime and unforeseen acts of violence; the abuses suffered by migrants and victims of human trafficking; and the devastation of the environment. Where does this lead? Can violence achieve any goal of lasting value? Or does it merely lead to retaliation and a cycle of deadly conflicts that benefit only a few “warlords”?

Violence is not the cure for our broken world. Countering violence with violence leads at best to forced migrations and enormous suffering, because vast amounts of resources are diverted to military ends and away from the everyday needs of young people, families experiencing hardship, the elderly, the infirm and the great majority of people in our world. At worst, it can lead to the death, physical and spiritual, of many people, if not of all.

The Good News

Jesus himself lived in violent times. Yet he taught that the true battlefield, where violence and peace meet, is the human heart: for “it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come” (Mk 7:21). But Christ’s message in this regard offers a radically positive approach. He unfailingly preached God’s unconditional love, which welcomes and forgives. He taught his disciples to love their enemies (cf. Mt 5:44) and to turn the other cheek (cf. Mt 5:39). When he stopped her accusers from stoning the woman caught in adultery (cf. Jn 8:1-11), and when, on the night before he died, he told Peter to put away his sword (cf. Mt 26:52), Jesus marked out the path of nonviolence. He walked that path to the very end, to the cross, whereby he became our peace and put an end to hostility (cf. Eph 2:14-16). Whoever accepts the Good News of Jesus is able to acknowledge the violence within and be healed by God’s mercy, becoming in turn an instrument of reconciliation. In the words of Saint Francis of Assisi: “As you announce peace with your mouth, make sure that you have greater peace in your hearts”.

To be true followers of Jesus today also includes embracing his teaching about nonviolence. Pope Benedict XVI stressed that: “For Christians, nonviolence is not merely tactical behaviour but a person’s way of being, the attitude of one who is so convinced of God’s love and power that he or she is not afraid to tackle evil with the weapons of love and truth alone. Love of one’s enemy constitutes the nucleus of the ‘Christian revolution’”. The Gospel command to love your enemies “is rightly considered the magna carta of

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Nonviolence: a Style of Politics for Peace

Continued from page 1

Christian nonviolence. It does not consist in succumbing to evil..., but in responding to evil with good, and thereby breaking the chain of injustice”.

More powerful than violence

Nonviolence is sometimes taken to mean surrender, lack of involvement and passivity, but this is not the case. When Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, she clearly stated her own message of active nonviolence: “We in our family don’t need bombs and guns, to destroy to bring peace – just get together, love one another... And we will be able to overcome all the evil that is in the world”. For the force of arms is deceptive. “While weapons traffickers do their work, there are poor peacemakers who give their lives to help one person, then another and another and another”; for such peacemakers, Mother Teresa is “a symbol, an icon of our times” ... She made her voice heard before the powers of this world.... Her mission was to reach out to the suffering, with generous dedication, touching and binding up every wounded body, healing every broken life.

The decisive and consistent practice of nonviolence has produced impressive results. The achievements of Mahatma Gandhi and Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan in the liberation of India, and of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in combating racial discrimination will never be forgotten. Women in particular are often leaders of nonviolence, as for example, was Leymah Gbowee and the thousands of Liberian women, who organized pray-ins and nonviolent protest that resulted in high-level peace talks to end the second civil war in Liberia.

Nor can we forget the eventful decade that ended with the fall of Communist regimes in Europe. Christian communities made their own contribution by their insistent prayer and courageous action. Particularly influential were the ministry and teaching of Saint John Paul II. Reflecting on the events of 1989 in his 1991 Encyclical *Centesimus Annus*, my predecessor highlighted the fact that momentous change in the lives of people, nations and states had come about “by means of peaceful protest, using only the weapons of truth and justice”.

The Church has been involved in nonviolent peacebuilding strategies in many countries, engaging even the most violent parties in efforts to build a just and lasting peace. Such efforts on behalf of the victims of injustice and violence are not the legacy of the Catholic Church alone, but are typical of many religious traditions, for which “compassion and nonviolence are essential elements pointing to the way of life”.

I emphatically reaffirm that no religion is terrorist. Violence profanes the name of God. Let us never tire of repeating: “The name of God cannot be used to justify violence. Peace alone is holy. Peace alone is holy, not war!”

The domestic roots of a politics of nonviolence

If violence has its source in the human heart, then it is fundamental that nonviolence be practised before all else within families. The family is the indispensable crucible in which spouses, parents and children, brothers and sisters, learn to communicate and to show generous concern for one another, and in which frictions and even conflicts have to be resolved not by force but by dialogue, respect, concern for the good of the other, mercy and forgiveness. From within families, the joy of love spills out into the world and radiates to the whole of society.

An ethics of fraternity and peaceful coexistence between individuals and among peoples cannot be based on the logic of fear, violence and closed-mindedness, but on responsibility, respect and sincere dialogue. Hence, I plead for disarmament and for the prohibition and abolition of nuclear weapons: nuclear deterrence and the threat of mutual assured destruction are incapable of grounding such an ethics. I plead with equal urgency for an end to domestic violence and to the abuse of women and children.

The Jubilee Year of Mercy ... taught us to realize how many and diverse are the individuals and social groups treated with indifference and subjected to injustice and violence. They too are part of our “family”; they too are our brothers and sisters. The politics of nonviolence have to begin in the home and then spread to the entire human family. “Saint Therese of Lisieux invites us to practise the little way of love, not to miss out on a kind word, a smile or any small gesture which sows peace and friendship. An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures that break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness”.

My invitation

Jesus himself offers a “manual” for a strategy of peace-making in the Sermon on the Mount. The eight Beatitudes (cf. Mt 5:3-10) provide a portrait of the person we could describe as blessed, good and authentic. Blessed are the meek, Jesus tells us, the merciful and the peacemakers, those who are pure in heart, and those who hunger and thirst for justice.

This is also a program and a challenge for political and religious leaders, the heads of international institutions, and business and media executives: to apply the Beatitudes in the exercise of their respective responsibilities. It is a challenge to build up society, communities and businesses by acting as peacemakers. It is to show mercy by refusing to discard people, harm the environment, or seek to win at any cost. To do so requires “the willingness to face conflict head on, to resolve it and to make it a link in the chain of a new process”. To act in this way means to choose solidarity as a way of making history and building friendship in society. Active nonviolence is a way of showing that unity is truly more powerful and more fruitful than conflict. Everything in the world is interconnected. Certainly differences can cause frictions. But let us face them constructively and non-violently, so that “tensions and oppositions can achieve a diversified and life-giving unity,” preserving “what is valid and useful on both sides”.

On 1 January 2017, the new Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development will begin its work. It will help the Church to promote in an ever more effective way “the inestimable goods of justice, peace, and the care of creation” and concern for “migrants, those in need, the sick, the excluded and marginalized, the imprisoned and the unemployed, as well as victims of armed conflict, natural disasters, and all forms of slavery and torture”. Every such response, however modest, helps to build a world free of violence, the first step towards justice and peace.

All of us want peace. Many people build it day by day through small gestures and acts; many of them are suffering, yet patiently persevere in their efforts to be peacemakers. In 2017, may we dedicate ourselves prayerfully and actively to banishing violence from our hearts, words and deeds, and to becoming non-violent people and to building nonviolent communities that care for our common home. “Nothing is impossible if we turn to God in prayer. Everyone can be an artisan of peace”.

All Things Considered

With this issue of The Beehive, we here at St. Ambrose Parish open our second century!

Looking at the past year, we can marvel at the many different expressions of community that marked our Centennial. Today, with hearts full of gratitude, we pause to consider the various tragedies and hopes, joys and sufferings, victories and challenges of the century that has passed.

A hundred years is not much in terms of a Church that is in its second millennium – or in terms of a God for whom “a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.” (2Peter 3:8) But it is certainly an accomplishment for an urban parish that has been along the ride of the booms and busts of the Motor City.

The clear truth that has emerged for us to see is that God guides our events. He walks with us and never ceases to do great things. How can we explain why St. Ambrose Parish still exists as a vibrant community of faith against some great odds?

Dare we project ahead to the end of our next hundred years? Will this parish be here in the year 2116? What will the Catholic faith be like for people living here? Will there be more Christians, or maybe a better question to ask is will they be more Christian? So much of that answer lies in what we do right now.

If we are drawn by his love, the path of our lives will know the joy that comes from faithful service every day. I hope the next century will bring peace, justice, fraternity and prosperity to all! In particular, my thoughts go to the youth of our parish, our hope of the future. May the light of Christ the Savior give meaning to their existence, guide them on the path of life, and make them strong in their witness to truth and service of good.

The hymn we commissioned for our Centennial has us singing, “*Omnia, omnia, Christus est nobis omnia!* Everything, everything, Christ for us is everything!” This parish will make it to its bicentennial if our gaze is fixed on Christ, the Savior of mankind. Without him, life cannot reach its final destiny. It is he who helps us face the challenges of the new age with his wisdom and the power of his Spirit. It is he who makes us able to spend our existence for the glory of God and the good of humanity. We must walk with him and be his witnesses in the future that awaits us.

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In 2002 when the ARK was being built, we gathered on the Feast of St. Ambrose to set the cornerstone of the building. The intention was that this cornerstone would be a time-capsule for future Ambrosians. In 2011, I noticed water leaking from the mortar joint along the bottom of the stone. We reopened the cavity to discover that water from the flower bed had seeped into the space and the metal document box had rusted through its bottom.

We spent weeks drying out documents. Fortunately many could be replaced, although not all of them. I decided that the next best time to re-seal the ARK cornerstone would be during our Centennial. For the contents, we have commissioned an acrylic box which will be factory sealed. We missed our self-imposed deadline of the December 7th St. Ambrose Day to re-inter the contents into the stone. The deep drop in temperature does not make doing any mortise work advisable. We’ll schedule this sometime in the new year, preferably in warmer weather when we can assemble a crowd.

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I had hoped to announce sometime during our Centennial year that we had finally re-purposed our convent for a charitable purpose, but in spite of all our best efforts that continues to elude us. Maybe this year? My thanks to **Roger Playwin** for his untiring efforts to get this project done.

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Confirmation with our 9th grade Religious Education students will be celebrated here next Saturday on the Feast of the Epiphany. **Bishop Don Hanchon** will be the confirming prelate.

The theology of Confirmation informs us that the Sacrament is about God choosing us. But since we have free will, we need to respond and cooperate as Mary and the saints did in order for God to do his best work through us.

It is my hope that we have prepared young Catholics for the Sacrament of Confirmation in a dynamic way, and also taught and inspired them to respond and cooperate with God’s grace in the circumstances of their lives, long after their Confirmation has passed.

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Two great events will grace our parish in 2017. The first will be the Diaconal ordination of our seminarian, **John Maksym**. John is studying for the priesthood at the St. John XXIII Seminary in Boston. That is a “national” seminary, meaning that students from all over the country are in attendance there. The John XXIII’s special emphasis is the training of men who are coming to the priesthood after other careers. In John’s case, that was actually two successful careers – that of an attorney here in Detroit followed by a Naval career as a Circuit Military Judge for the Western Pacific Circuit. John will be ordained a deacon on April 22nd in the chapel of Sacred Heart Seminary, with a reception to follow here that day.

The second great event that we’ll see is the Presbyteral ordination of our Deacon intern, **Br. Robert Wotypka**. That ceremony will take place at St. Bonaventure Monastery on August 6th, with a mass of thanksgiving and dinner here at the parish on August 12th. Deacon Robert also comes to the priesthood after a successful career working world-wide for a major hotel chain after graduation from NYU. His theological studies were done at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

TRP



Name

Home Phone

Work Phone

Email Address

- I would simply like to learn more about the Catholic Faith.
- I desire to prepare for my Baptism into Christianity.
- I've been Baptized as a Christian and now desire to join in Catholic Communion.
- I'm non-Catholic, but married to a Catholic, and now wish to join the Catholic Church.
- I'm Catholic and I would like to complete my initiation into the Catholic Church by celebrating Confirmation and/or Communion.
- I'm Baptized Catholic and would like to learn more about my faith and how to practice it.
- I want to propose someone for Catholic Church membership and offer to serve as their sponsor.
- I would be willing to help with an R.C.I.A. program.
- I have other needs, requests, and questions. Please contact me.

Return this to the Parish Rectory or place it in the Collection basket.

Diakonos Post

I can't think of a better way to begin the New Year than to reflect on Mary, the one who "kept all ... things, reflecting on them in her heart" (Lk 2: 19). Believe me, I've tried. On average 7% of New Year resolutions are kept, with the fall-off beginning within weeks of the turn of the digit(s). To cite one example, be prepared this week for some waiting time at the gym, but be patient, too. There's a high likelihood that well-known patterns will soon re-emerge. I speak from experience, on both sides of the observation.

If patterns mark our approach to daily life, and if the patterns are not serving for our betterment, then we can meditate on the example of Mary, whose life was marked by the repeated absence of precedent: in her Immaculate Conception; in her bearing and conceiving the child Jesus; in her identity as the first disciple and Mother of the Church, and in her blessed Assumption. If we want to live differently, for our own sake, for the sake of others, and for the sake of God and God's reign on earth, we best begin by looking to Mary. And Mary is not far from us, indeed, her uniqueness can be what draws us to her. The Dominican Frederick Jelly wrote, "... instead of seeing Mary's special graces and privileges as isolating her from us, we behold them as revealing what God intends ultimately for all who have been redeemed by Christ."

Mary has been my joy and my intercessor in the highest and lowest points of my life, and she is the patron and protector of the Franciscan movement. The foundation of Franciscan spirituality is the vision and embrace of God's creation as holy and beloved. The Thomistic body/soul duality doesn't find resonance with us, nor do we see the world as a lesser heaven or a place to "work out" our salvation. No, we see it as good and beautiful and beheld lovingly by God, and the truth of Mary, and how God formed her, and how she responded to God's invitation, shows us that purity and goodness can and do find expression here, even in the context of the reality of suffering. And Mary points to this, too, for who suffered on earth has suffered as she suffered, all the while keeping faith?

I was once told by a confessor that the only way to become a saint was to do the next right thing, that one doesn't plan or chart the path to sainthood, but that it comes hour by hour and day by day, with one choice following after another. In its wisdom the Church guides us at the beginning of the year to look to the example of Mary and her 'yes,' her desire that all "be done to me according to Your word" (Lk 1: 38). We can be thankful for her example, we can imitate her fortitude and her trust, and we can be with her when our days cease.

Deacon Robert Wotypka

The Christmas Season

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 7, 2017, MASS AT 4:00 P.M.

- CONFIRMATION LITURGY

Sunday, January 8, 2017, MASS AT 8:30 A.M.

AND 11:15 A.M.



The Buzz

A blessed and peaceful New Year to you and yours! There is a special emphasis on world peace every January 1st in the Church. Blessed Pope Paul VI began it 50 years ago, and for a goodly while it seemed to be growing as the preferred theme to be celebrated for New Year's Day. But then under the very Marian St. John Paul II it swung back to another long-standing focus: the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. (See a very pointed 50th annual papal message for 2017 on the front page of this bulletin and, in full, on the Vatican website.)

I think they both fit together. Read again today's Gospel. It continues the infancy story from Luke with the shepherds' visit to the manger, their understanding the message, and then going out to proclaim to others what the angels had told them. Meanwhile, Mary reflected on all these things in her heart.

All good moms want peace in their families. Who's in Mary's family ... Joseph and Jesus and that's it? From ancient times in the Church Mary has had the title Θεοτόκος God-bearer, or Mother of God (because Jesus is God). Now jump from the birth of Christ ahead to the cross. In John's Gospel, at the foot of the cross are standing two people – Mary and the “beloved disciple”. Jesus gives her to him as his mother, and he to her as her son. Who is the “beloved disciple”? Over the years he has very handily been identified as the Apostle John himself. Today, scholars help us identify that the omission of a particular name in favor of a more mysterious title was intentional and inspired. Who is the beloved disciple? We are! And especially in communion with our “brother” Jesus – all children of one and the same Heavenly Father – Mary is given to us as our mother as well. And what does every good mother want? . . . Let's do our part in 2017 to make peace more of a reality in our “family” than it was in 2016.

20+C+M+B+17

Next weekend we celebrate another truth about Jesus that comes to us from the infancy story in Matthew. Epiphany always makes me wonder how billions of Christians have come to discover the Lord. What's your story? Is it one of dramatic personal encounter (ala St. Paul); is it one of cultural expectation (ala many of us through family, parish, school, etc.); is it one of personal search (ala the Magi)?

There are many valid encounter storylines about people with Emmanuel. Our scriptures and tradition assure us that they are often full of irony and surprise. The Magi were mysterious foreigners and Gentiles who used pagan, forbidden means (reading the stars) to search for a (most surprising) king. They responded well in their quest. Yet the people who were better prepared with the wisdom of scripture and history . . . missed the point!

At the beginning of 2017, how are you and I doing at “getting the point”? We have a great foundation for faith prepared for us. It points us in the right direction; it warmly invites us to journey to meet Him. If you are reading this, it probably means you have come to this “house of bread” (beth-lehem) already knowing Him some. Did you find Him again? Did you get something new out of it? The beginning of a new year is a good time to make a resolution to spend 2017 prayerfully ready to see Emmanuel in every surprising way He comes to us . . . and to grow closer to Him each and every day. That would make for the best new year ever!

20+C+M+B+17

Next Saturday at the 4:00 Epiphany Liturgy, Bishop Don Hanchon will be back with us to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with our 9th Grade candidates. Come join us and pray for them that the Holy Spirit will always be close to give them peace and help them more and more throughout their lives “get the point” of living as a wise and beloved disciple of the Lord.

Szczesliwego Nowego Roku!
Chuck Dropiewski

Pray Every Day



Could you be searching for a fresh new way to pray every day of this New Year?

Daily Prayer 2017 is your guide to prayer that includes scripture, psalmody, a brief reflection, general intercessions, and a closing prayer. It is ideal for personal and family reflection upon the word of God. This also makes an excellent gift for a senior, a newlywed or for a student away at college.

These prayer books are \$12 each — a dollar a month — which is a modest investment in someone's spiritual formation. To pick up a copy of this year's Daily Prayer 2017, stop in the back of church or call the rectory office at 822-2814.

The Beehive

is the parish weekly bulletin of the
St. Ambrose Catholic Community
Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

Pastor: Rev. Timothy R. Pelc
Assistant: Rev. Mr. Robert Wotycka OFM, Cap
Pastoral Minister: Charles Dropiewski
Religious Education: Kelly Anne Woolums
Minister of Music: Norah Duncan, IV
Office Manager:

Sacramental Celebrations

Masses: On the Lord's Day –

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.

Baptism: Arrangements for both adults and infants to be made by contacting the rectory.

Penance: As announced and by appointment.

Marriage: Couples should contact the rectory office a minimum of six months in advance of the proposed date to make arrangements.

Funeral: Normally celebrated within one week after the deceased's passing.

Directory

Parish Office: 15020 Hampton

Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230

Tel: (313) 822-2814 **Fax:** (313) 822-9838

Email address: stambrose@comcast.net

Religious Education: (313) 822-1248

Pastoral Ministry: (313) 822-2017

Ark Scheduling: (313) 822-2814

Parish Website: stambrosechurch.net

Liturgy Schedule for the Coming Week

Monday, January 2

St. Basil the Great, & St. Gregory Nazianzen

Office Closed - no services

Tuesday, January 3

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Marianne Legal

Wednesday, January 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious

8:30 a.m. - Morning prayer

Thursday, January 5

St. John Neumann, bishop

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Marilyn Lundy,

Fred Schroder, George Van Antwerp

Friday, January 6

St. Andre Bessette, religious

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Joan Convery

Geraldine Baker, Lee Beard

Saturday, January 7

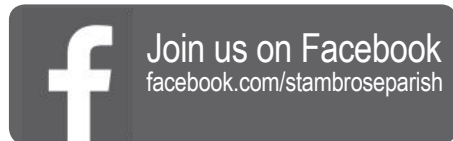
4:00 p.m. - Mass - Confirmation Liturgy

Sunday, January 8

The Epiphany of our Lord

8:30 a.m. - Mass - For All People

11:15 a.m. - Mass - For All People



Scriptures for the Week of New Year's

Monday, January 2

- 1 Jn 2: 22-28
- Ps 98: 1-4
- Jn 1: 19-28

Tuesday, January 3

- 1 Jn 2: 29-3: 6
- Ps 98: 1, 3c-4, 5-6
- Jn 1: 29-34

Wednesday, January 4

- 1 Jn 3: 7-10
- Ps 98: 1, 7-9
- Jn 1: 35-42

Thursday, January 5

- 1 Jn 3: 11-21
- Ps 100: 1b-5
- Jn 1: 43-51

Friday, January 6

- 1 Jn 5: 5-13
- Ps 147: 12-15, 19-20
- Mk 1: 7-11 or
- Lk 3: 23-28 or 3: 23, 31-34, 36, 38

Saturday, January 7

- 1 Jn 5: 14-21
- Ps 149: 1-6a, 9b
- Jn 2: 1-11

Sunday, January 8

- Is 60: 1-6
- Eph 3: 2-3a, 5-6
- Mt 2: 1-12

The Epiphany of our Lord January 7th and January 8th

4:00 p.m. – Saturday – Celebrant: Bp. Hanchon & Fr. Pelc

Lectors: Bern Degnan & Matt Utley

Eucharistic Ministers: Joan Jackson, Maggie Jackson

Altar Servers: Conor Garvey; Margaret & Meredith Kramer; McKenna, Corey, & Carrigan McGraw

8:30 a.m. – Sunday – Celebrant: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Norman Cure

Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Gatzke, Liz & Steve Linne, Joellyn Valgoi, Chris Walsh, John Witherell

Altar Servers: Charlie & Eleanor Bernas

11:15 a.m. – Sunday - Celebrant: Fr. Pelc **Lector:** Michele Hodges

Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Bennert, Mary Ghesquiere, Pat & Mike Mocerri, Janis Ramsey, Cristina Swiatkowski

Altar Servers: Effie Hodges, Liam O'Byrne

Your Envelope Speaks . . . the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish requires a *minimum* of \$10,100.00

On Sunday, December 18, 2016

in envelopes we received \$9,072.00

in the loose collection \$616.00

in electronic donations \$1,390.00

in children's envelopes \$6.00

for a total of **\$11,200.00**

Over budget for the week \$1,100.00

Number of envelopes mailed 800

Number of envelopes used 165

Mary is the perfect role model for living a stewardship lifestyle. She listened to God and said "yes" to His invitation to be the Holy Mother of His son. She also trusted in God's providence on a daily basis.

As we start a new year, take time every day to listen to how God is calling you; trust that He has a better plan for you than you could ever imagine.

Our Sick

Please pray for our parishioners who are seriously ill or hospitalized: Peyton Barron, Pat Blake, Laura Bush, Dominic Centorbi, Andrew Chavez, Maria Chinchilla, Karen Culver, Mary Pat Egan, Kathleen Elberson, Ann Sullivan Kay, Donald & Marilyn Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Mary Myers, Jeanne Noto, Ray Oberly, Elizabeth Robert, Bob Ramsey, David Schumacker, Matthew Elias, George Bucec, Scott Nedoff, Betty Greenia, Emilie Kasper, Arthur Stoyshin, Anna Noto Billings, Vilma Rivers, Vilma Marone, Eileen O'Brien, Mark Haas, Bernadette Gutowski, Anne Billiu, Martha Luna, Laurie Lavins, Dan Urbiel, Colette Gilewicz, Irene Scopel, and Dina Engels.

End of Year Giving

During this holiday season – a season of generosity, I would like to offer you the opportunity to give St. Ambrose Parish a special Christmas offering. This Christmas offering is intended for gifts above and beyond your regular giving.

Like other institutions that depend on free-will offerings, our Parish counts on a healthy expression of end-of-the-year generosity to pay our bills, make salaries, insurances and keep our doors open. As we come upon the last days of the calendar year, it means we are also coming up to the end of a fiscal tax period. So, it's now time to review your tax strategy.

If you intend to make an end-of-the-year gift to the parish, to satisfy your IRS tax deduction for 2016, you'll need to date it before January 1st. You can do this in the special Christmas envelope mailed in your monthly packet. Or you can get it to us marked as "Christmas." Gifts made in this manner are free from the usual Archdiocesan taxation of 7%.

This end-of-the year offering is what you choose to give *over and above* your regular weekly giving. A significant portion of our parish operating revenue comes from end-of-the-year contributions which can be in the form of cash, securities, stock, real estate and other negotiables. Consult your tax preparer who can guide you as to the best way of making a donation to St. Ambrose. Or, our own parish accountant can also be of assistance if you call the rectory.

Shop St. Ambrose

Are you looking for a special gift for that hard-to-buy-for loved one? St. Ambrose offers some limited items for your Christmas giving. These are exclusive to our parish and quantities are limited.

Buy-A-Brick – Memorialize a loved one, or “carve in stone” an event with a personalized brick paver that will be installed in our memorial walkway. Pavers run between \$500 and \$1,000 depending on size. Here’s a gift that becomes a tangible part of Ambrosian history, viewed by generations to come.

Ghirelli Rosaries – Six different custom-designed rosaries made by hand in Italy expressly for St. Ambrose Parish. The bead collection ranges from hard wood, bohemian glass and semi-precious stones. The crucifix is taken from the ARK Plaza sculpture. The center piece depicts the First and Second Coming of Christ from our sanctuary and the “pater” bead is taken from a detail in our stained glass windows. Not just a beautiful work of craftsmanship, but a useful aid in prayer, a real legacy piece. Prices run between \$48 and \$107 dollars. Boxed and presented in a velvet gift bag.

Centennial Key Fob – Sleek stainless steel, etched with the Centennial Logo. A classy, inexpensive way to remember a friend or a former parishioner. \$5 boxed.

“Feeding the Multitude” – a collection of more than 250 recipes provided by the cooks of St. Ambrose Parish. This spiral bound book contains a special section with meal prayers for the seasons of the Church year as well as for special family celebrations.

Commemorative Bee Tile – Designed and produced exclusively for St. Ambrose Parish by David Ellison, a Detroit-area tile maker who was instrumental in establishing the tile-making program at historic Pewabic Pottery. The size of the tile, unframed, is 6” x 6” and costs \$85.00, gift boxed.

Centennial Tote Bags – Environmentally friendly, this black 12x15x5” tote is a neat way to carry your allegiance to St. Ambrose Parish to the store or to wherever you go. Totes are included complementary with purchases of a Cherub or Tile. Otherwise they are \$5.

Christmas Cherub – A reproduction of a DePrato Cherub that donned the St. Ambrose Creche over 75 years ago. Each Cherub is a hand-painted resin casting by Ellison Studios, numbered and signed. Every one is a unique work of art at \$75 each. (Limited Supplies remaining)

St. Ambrose 2017 Centennial Calendar – Marking our 101st Anniversary, this calendar recaps some great memories from our Centennial year. Maybe you will see someone you know in the photos. \$5 each.

St. Ambrose Honey – from the beehives on St. Ambrose property this rich, pure honey is a treat for morning tea and toast. It’s a wonderful gift for any honey connoisseur. Due to colony collapse, none is available for 2016

There are three easy ways to “shop” St. Ambrose:

1. Stop by the parish office, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cash, check or credit cards are accepted.
2. Call the parish office at (313) 822-2814 to place your order – it can be made available at Mass for your pick up. Credit cards may be taken over the phone. Or pay by cash or check after mass when picking up, or mail to the parish office.
3. Email your order to stambrose@comcast.net and let us know if you want to pick up at the rectory or after Mass. Please do not send credit card number by email. Call (313) 822-2814 for assistance.

Agua para la ciudad de Flint

The politicians have left Flint, but the crisis there continues. We’ve seen a steady, although small, stream of items coming in for Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Flint. Composed mostly of immigrants from Mexico, Guadalupe parish is especially hard hit. They started with little and now have less. They need bottled water, as well as water (and shower) filtration systems. They also need other items such as personal hygiene kits and baby supplies – especially baby bath-tubs. Leave your donations in the church vestibule, we’ll do the delivery.

Mass Times When Traveling

Your membership in the Catholic Church gives you privileges to worship with any Catholic Community world wide. While on your vacation or traveling, websites like masstimes.org and thecatholicdirectory.com make it easy to find a mass wherever you are.

Newman Connection

Choosing a college is one of the biggest decisions a student will make in his/her life. Some choose easily by going to the college that is closest to their home or perhaps an alma mater of their parents. Some find it more challenging and weigh all of the options.

Either way, The Catholic Newman Connection supports students throughout this process by connecting them to the campus ministry of their chosen college, uniting with them in prayer, and helping them grow in their faith, creating a community of Catholic students nationwide. If you are headed to college, or are in college now, go to newmanconnection.com. Get connected, unite in prayer, and grow in faith.