

Catholic Annulment: Was a Marriage Valid?

Many people misunderstand Catholic annulment. Truth be told, back when I was entering the Catholic Church, I used to think of it as a sort of "Catholic divorce." But annulment in the Catholic Church comes from the great value we place on marriage. Annulment upholds, rather than undercuts, the Catholic teaching on the sanctity and permanence of marriage. And if I learned to understand this, you can, too!

Here's the whole point: Divorce says that you were once married, but now you aren't. Divorce is a matter of civil law. Annulment says you were never truly married in the first place. Something necessary for a valid marriage was missing. Annulment is a matter of Church law. The rest of this article explains the details of Catholic annulment.

The value & permanence of marriage

To understand Catholic annulment, you have to understand marriage. Marriage between a man & woman in the Catholic Church is a sacrament. It's both a sign of the love between Christ and his Church, and also a participation in that love. Really! St. Paul calls this a "great mystery" in Ephesians 5:32. Catholics believe that marriage is permanent, "till death do us part." This teaching comes from Christ, as recorded in Scripture (See Mt 5:31-32 and 19:3-9, Mk 10:2-12, Lk 16:18). Our marriage vows reflect this. We promise our spouse:

1. Fidelity
2. Indissolubility (permanence)
3. Openness to children

This is not a list of rules cooked up by the Catholic Church! It's simply a description of what marriage is. Real marriage, as God intended, as we feel naturally drawn to. As Jesus said, "So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder." (Mt 19:6) That's why we say that the sacrament of marriage is indissoluble. And even Catholic annulment can't dissolve a valid marriage! Annulment simply says that a true, sacramental marriage was never created in the first place — it was never valid.

What makes a valid marriage? Catholic annulment declares that a couple didn't have some ingredient necessary for a valid marriage. For a marriage to be valid — for it to be something "God has joined together" — a couple needs to...

- Be able to exchange consent, and do so freely and unconditionally
- Consent to fidelity, indissolubility, and openness to children
- Not have any impediments to marriage (see below)
- Follow the sacrament properly

Church law recognizes twelve specific impediments to marriage. They include things like coercion; being too young; already being married; blood or in-law relations; having received holy orders; being under vows of chastity; or being impotent (permanently unable to engage in sexual intercourse).

What if a marriage fails?

The Church knows that the world isn't perfect. In fact, that's a basic point of our theology! We call it the "fallen world", the result of our original sin. It means that things don't always follow God's original plan, and don't turn out the way they should. Sometimes this happens in marriage — even valid marriages. The Catholic Church does not say that a couple should always stay in a failed marriage. Yes, we strongly encourage people to try to reconcile things, especially if children are involved. But sometimes it is necessary to separate for serious reasons, and even seek civil divorce.

This is especially true in cases where one spouse is abusing another. But that does not change the fact that the couple is still married. God has joined them together, and that bond cannot be broken. Don't think Catholic annulment affects the bond of a valid marriage! Nothing can break that bond, "as long as you both shall live." If a marriage fails, we want things to get better for ourselves or our friends. We want to be able to "move on."

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A lot of people think that's what Catholic annulment is all about — the equivalent of Catholic divorce. It is not. When we marry, we promise not to just "move on." We promise to stay together through thick and thin, and to remain faithful. This is important not just because of that promise...but also because we've promised to be a sign to the world of God's fidelity to us. Our marriage is a visible sign of the love between Christ and his Church. You know... where he remains faithful to us, even when we fail.

But marriage is more than just a sign — marriage is also the sacramental channel through which God gives the grace of fidelity and love to a broken world. Remaining faithful, even in a difficult or broken marriage, keeps that channel open. Truthfully, this can be very hard to understand in a culture that doesn't value promise, fidelity, or permanence. Which is why that sign of permanence is so important today.

Annulment for an invalid marriage

Catholic annulment means that a couple was never married in the sacramental sense. God did not create that unbreakable bond between them because the sacrament of marriage was not actually fulfilled. The term "annulment" is actually a little misleading. It sounds like the Church is actively canceling, or nullifying, the marriage. The proper term for Catholic annulment is "declaration of nullity" — the Church declares that the marriage never was valid in the first place. This becomes clearer when we compare Catholic annulment to civil divorce.

- Divorce is effective as of the date of the divorce decree. Before that, the couple was still married.
- A declaration of nullity affects the period of time starting from the original date of the wedding ceremony. The couple was never married.

What makes a marriage invalid? Here are some common reasons for annulment in the Catholic Church:

- At least one partner didn't fully and freely consent.
- Someone wasn't mature enough to understand the full extent of what they were doing.
- There was never an intent to be faithful.
- One or both partners did not intend to be open to children.

Obviously, the Church places a tremendous value on marriage. Couples seeking marriage are required to attend pre-marriage education sessions precisely so they can be fully informed about what they're committing to. Note that it's important to distinguish between what the couple *intends* when they marry, and deviations later in the marriage. If a husband has an affair, that does not necessarily mean he didn't intend fidelity when he got married. Nor does a wife's

refusal to have more children later in a marriage mean that she didn't really intend fertility when she made her vows.

Sorting out questions like this is difficult. That's why the Church has a formal process for Catholic annulment to determine, on a case by case basis, whether an individual marriage originally met the criteria of a valid marriage. The presumption is always that it was a valid marriage, and it is up to those seeking annulment to prove otherwise. The process for Catholic annulment actually makes a lot of sense. Perhaps it is abused at times by those who just want a "Catholic divorce." But overall, it seems to be a good balance between upholding the truth about marriage and allowing for the imperfect way that people sometimes enter into commitments.

Does annulment make children illegitimate? No — children of a marriage that's determined to be invalid by a Catholic annulment, are still legitimate. (Code of Canon Law, canon 1137) When a couple marries, they assume the marriage is valid and was entered into in good faith. Children conceived under this assumption of a valid marriage, are considered to be legitimate. This fact does not change even if the marriage is later found to be not valid.

In the United States, Catholic annulment does not affect any state civil laws. It is unrelated to civil concerns such as illegitimacy, child custody, alimony, visitation rights, or division of property. Practically speaking, couples seek Catholic annulment when there is a need to clarify their status within the Church. This often happens after a civil divorce, when one person wants to remarry.

Excerpted from "Straight Talk on Annulment" from beginningcatholic.com/catholic-annulment.html. More information about the annulment process can be found at the Archdiocese of Detroit website, aodonline.org.

The Feasts of February

Tuesday, February 2nd is the Feast of the **Presentation of the Lord** — also known as Candlemas Day. Candles will be blessed for home use at the 8:30 morning liturgy. They will be available for purchase the following Sunday.

The following day, Wednesday, February 3rd is the **Feast of St. Blase**. The newly blessed candles will be used to bless throats. This blessing will be given at a service at 8:30 in the morning and at a service at 7:00 in the evening.



All Things Considered

I've lost track of just how many different, failed attempts we've made in developing a Youth Ministry component for our parish. Different efforts lasted for different periods of time; but none of them had much staying power. There were times when he had volunteer Youth Ministers and part-time Youth Ministers. There was one Youth Minister that didn't last a month. We made a few unsuccessful overtures to neighboring parishes to collaborate on Youth Ministry. Then there was a plan to hire a Youth Minister to serve the whole Vicariate. One year, we worked on plans for a "coffee house" drop-in center along with a neighboring Protestant church. And then, there was the Youth Minister who, while working for us, converted to a protestant denomination. Needless to say, our track record in this area has not been good.

Which is why I was so surprised when **JULIE KELLY**, the Youth Minister at St. Clare of Montefalco, issued an invitation to our Confirmandi to participate in their youth program. For a long time, I have felt that we were not large enough to sustain a Youth Ministry program by ourselves and that collaborating within the Vicariate was the best way for us to go. Yet, for whatever reasons, our proposals of a cross-parish Youth Ministry never materialized. Now it is happening with the best possible partner, St. Clare, because both their young people and ours, for the most part, attend Grosse Pointe South.

Now, in God's good time, things appear to be coming together. In addition to this invitation to work with St. Clare, two college-age parishioners have come forward to begin working on their certification as Youth Ministers!

So, after a long, unproductive spell, we're seeing some real long-term possibilities emerging.

The St. Clare Youth Group calls itself "CREW" which stands for Christians Recognizing Everyone's Worth. They meet in the Youth Ministry Room of St. Clare's School. I understand that their regular meetings are held on Sunday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30. For a schedule of meeting dates, contact our Religious Education Director, **BETTY HALEY** at bourkehaley@yahoo.com and/or the St. Clare Director, Julie Kelly at Kwoolumn512@gmail.com.

I'd like to believe that this is one of the overflowing graces of the Holy Spirit that we celebrated last weekend at Confirmation!

While I am short on facts, I did get wind that some of our confirmandi were penalized for missing some extra curricular practice that was scheduled opposite our Confirmation ceremony. This is not the first time that we have had conflicts with sport, music and academic programs running against Sacramental programs. In fact, this is pretty much a regular occurrence.

You need to know that we do our best to coordinate our calendar with the local schools. Our key sacramental dates, such as First Communion and Confirmation are set at least a year in advance. But that does not seem to phase coaches and teachers who make up practice schedules with impunity and without consultation.

In the past, I have gone to these teachers personally and I will admit that they have been accommodating after the fact. But I really should not be the one doing this. It is incumbent upon our families who have kids in such programs to make certain that coaches and teachers understand up front that there are certain non-negotiable days. The Sabbath belongs to the Lord and you. We should not let others take it from us, no matter how good their motives.

We have just passed the six month mark in our parish fiscal year. I've asked our auditor to take a look to see how our budget is holding up. If it is not, we'll need to make some mid-course corrections. I expect to have this report in a week or two.

Meanwhile, budget preparations are already beginning for the next fiscal year which doesn't start until July. This past week, at the Presbyterial Council meeting, I learned that the Archdiocesan Assessment is going to be raised one percentage point, from 6% to 7% starting in Fiscal Year 2010-2011. It does not sound like a lot, but remember that is 7 cents out of ever dollar taken in, except for special things like CSA and Christmas.

Another piece of news came from the Michigan Catholic Conference. They inform us that we need to budget for a 12-15% increase in employee health care costs in the next fiscal year. We have yet to get an estimated increase for the cost of utilities, but we know they are not going down.

We are already operating in a 0% increase mode when it comes to parish salaries for this fiscal year. With the assessment, operational costs and our debt repayment as fixed costs, it will certainly be difficult to maintain the level of service that we now enjoy without an increase in contributions from our parishioners. I've been saying this for the past couple of months: There is no St. Ambrose without you. Times are tough for us all. I trust and encourage you to do what you can to support your home parish now and in the future.

One, fun way that you can do this is by supporting our Valentine's Day Dinner, Dance and Auction.

Contribution statements for tax year 2009 are now completed and are being mailed from our office this week. Should you need it earlier, or if you have questions about your statement, just contact our parish office.

TRP

Christian Unity Octave

The word "octave" comes from the Latin word for eight. According to the first creation story in the Book of Genesis, God created the world in seven days. Seven is a number that represents wholeness and completion. The resurrection of Jesus was called the "eighth day" by the earliest Christians, because now life was lived in a whole new dimension of freedom.

The Church Unity Octave is eight days of special prayer for the reunion of Christians. At the Last Supper Jesus prayed for his followers "that they all may be one." But Christians have sometimes forgotten that we are all one body with Christ as our head. We think of ourselves instead as Eastern or Western, Protestant or Catholic.

In recent years the churches have made important steps toward understanding each other. Pope John XXIII made history by inviting leaders of other Christian churches to the Vatican. When he called the Roman Catholic bishops to the Second Vatican Council, Anglicans, Methodists, Quakers, Congregationalists, Lutherans and Orthodox were included as observers. Nothing like this had ever been seen.

The churches have continued to work together toward greater harmony. But prayer is still needed so that the body of Christ on earth can be strong and united. That will help the people of the world hear the voice of Christ speaking clearly.

The Church prays for Christian unity all during the year. But during the week of the Church Unity Octave we pray with special concern. We ask that all Christians might be able to work together. The Church Unity Octave ends on January 25th, the feast of the Conversion of St. Paul.

Fr. Jeffrey Day has just been named Ecumenical/Interfaith Advisor for the Archdiocese of Detroit by Archbishop Vigneron. He is pastor of St. Sebastian Parish in Dearborn Heights.



A Prayerful Study and Reflection on the Gospel of Saint Luke

Scripture is God's unique revelation. When we open the Gospel of Luke, we open our hearts to a dialogue with God. Plan to join us on the following Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 11:00 in the ARK:

January 17	Luke: A Writer Unparalleled
January 24	Luke: A Distinctive Sunday Lectionary Profile
January 31	The Parables of Luke
February 7	Food in the Gospel of Luke
February 14	The Eucharist in Luke's Gospel

CSA Minute

Archbishop Allen Vigneron will celebrate a Mass for Life this Sunday at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. This special mass is for parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, friends, neighbors and all those affected by the loss of the unborn through abortion.

January 22 marks the anniversary of the United States Supreme Court's landmark decision in Roe vs. Wade. Since the 1973 decision, more than a million abortions have been performed in the United States each year. Many women who choose to abort a pregnancy suffer from the memory of what they have done, feeling separated from God, their families and even themselves.

Your gifts to the Catholic Services Appeal help the Archdiocese of Detroit minister through Project Rachel to those who have been touched by an abortion experience. For more information about Project Rachel or other CSA-funded programs and ministries go to www.aodonline.org.

Stuff for Your Sweetie

A great *Valentine's Dinner, Dance & Auction* in the ARK will be held on Saturday, February 13th. Singles, couples, friends, lovers ... everyone is welcome! Building on last year's popularity, we will once again include a fabulous, silent auction with a variety of gifts and services. Proceeds will benefit the ARC, the St. Ambrose Rebuilding Campaign.

Individual and table reservations for our *Valentine's Dinner, Dance & Auction* are now being taken. Just call the rectory office at 313-822-2814. Last year's event was a sell-out, so call early if you already know you want to attend.

To make the auction as fabulous as last year's, we again need your help. Would you please consider donating to the silent auction? Some suggestions include sport/concert tickets, a voucher for services, antiques, art, jewelry, sports memorabilia, the use of vacation property, and anything you got as a gift for Christmas that you really don't like or need!

To make a donation, or to ask auction questions, call Bob or Jan Ramsey at 313-885-4784.

The Buzz

This is the first Sunday of the year when we return to the green of Ordinary Time on the Church's calendar. It seems like a good time to take a breath, to look back and savor what we've been celebrating this past Advent/Christmas season extending all the way back to the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

Today's Gospel passage gives us the third traditional "epiphany" event in the early life and ministry of Jesus: the miracle of the water transformed into wine at the wedding in Cana. Every one of the epiphanies (visit of the Magi, baptism by John, and Cana) needed people to stop and take a second look in order to get a truer picture of who Jesus really was. In none of them did He point to Himself or blow His own horn.

In today's first reading, the prophetic voice is actually calling people who have just returned from Babylonian exile and now standing in the rubble of Jerusalem to stop and take a new visionary look at God's presence there – closer and more powerfully glorious than ever before. Later, Paul asks the Corinthians to take another look at the "gifts" distributed among their members and see the riches that the Spirit has given them for unity rather than as reasons for envy and disruption.

As we reenter Ordinary Time, is there anything around you that's in ruins? Take another look and see the Lord who is there with you to rebuild a life better than ever. Is there anything disruptive or tearing you up or apart? Take another look and see the Lord who is there with you to put the pieces back together in a new and better way. Is there plain water anywhere in your life where you are looking for something with a little more "oomph"? Take another look; follow Mary's instruction and 'do whatever He tells you'. Then prepare to let some lasting joy get into your blood. Welcome to Ordinary Time!



There is very little that is ordinary about these early days of Ordinary Time. Tomorrow's national remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. coincides with the first day of the worldwide Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Both ask us to take another look at our racial, ethnic and faith relationships with others and to find a new and deeper vision of Christ's presence there.

Tomorrow is also the Monday morning this month that we're hosting the ETC meeting intended to help participants take a new, hopeful and energetic look at moving out of unemployment or underemployment. The speaker is Gail Perry-Mason who'll be offering her insights and experience on money management. She is the author of "Girl, Make Your Money Grow" which became a best seller.

Friday is the 37th anniversary of the Roe v Wade Supreme Court decision about abortion in the United States. Maybe spend some time that day in prayer and fasting. Perhaps the Lord will reveal to you a new and effective way to resolve this crucial respect-for-life dilemma in our land.

Next Sunday morning, why not join in a second look at the Gospel of Luke in the St. Ambrose Adult Faith Formation session at 9:45-11:00 am in the ARK. Though free of charge, it is still a very rich opportunity to rediscover the living Christ in whole new and surprising ways.

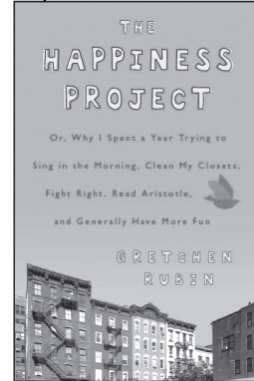


And speaking of second looks, next week Monday, the 25th, celebrates the conversion of St. Paul and what a second look at Christ can mean not only in the life of one individual, but also how it can affect the entire Church and world.

The next day, Tuesday the 26th, is the feast day of Sts. Timothy and Titus, missionary companions of St. Paul. What a great way to end the Church Unity Octave.

Chuck Dropiewski

Marcellina's Book Club



In The Happiness Project, author Gretchen Rubin chronicles her adventures during the twelve months she spent test-driving the wisdom of the ages, current scientific research, and lessons from popular culture about how to be happier.

Our book club will meet this Wednesday, February 24, 2010 in the ARK. The discussion will begin at 7:00 p.m. Join us!

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The Beehive

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

Pastor: Rev. Timothy R. Pelc
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Michael Cummins
Pastoral Minister: Charles Dropiewski
Adult Ed. Director: Michael Maras
Religious Education: Elizabeth Haley
Minister of Music: John Guinn
Office Manager: Theresa Harthen

Sacramental Celebrations

Masses: 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 of 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
Ark Scheduling: Laura Blake (313) 822-1594
School Archives: 313-237-5846
Parish Website: stambrosechurch.net

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time January 23rd and January 24th

4:00 p.m. - Saturday – Celebrants: Fr. Naessens **Lector:** Michael Trudel
Eucharistic Ministers: Maria Borkowski, Mary & Ray Oberly
Altar Servers: Mara Hillyer, Joseph Kurta

8:30 a.m. - Sunday – Celebrant: Fr. Naessens **Deacon:** Michael Cummins
Lector: Laura Zajac **Eucharistic Ministers:** Michael Hern, Mary Howard,
Bernadette Pieczynski, Judy Ramberger, Chris Walsh, Liz & John Witherell
Altar Servers: Freddie & Joshua Haynes

11:15 a.m. - Sunday – Celebrant: Fr. Naessens **Deacon:** Michael Cummins
Lector: Bob Krueger **Eucharistic Ministers:** Carter Billiu, Lynn Brocklehurst,
Doris Fleming, Michele Hodges, Jeri Krueger, Cristina Swiatkowski, Bernadette Gutowski
Altar Servers: Patrick, Charlie & Daniel Bernas

Your Envelope ... Speaks the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish requires a *minimum* of \$8,200.00
On January 10, 2010

in envelopes we received	\$8,171.00
in loose collection	\$697.27
in electronic donations	\$670.00
in children's envelopes.....	\$64.03
for a total of.....	\$9,602.30
Over for the week by	\$1,402.03
Number of envelopes mailed	800
Number of envelopes used	212
[Where are all the other 588 envelopes?]	
ARC debt reduction receipts	\$6,995.00
Fuel.....	\$335.00

Our Sick

Pray for our parishioners who are seriously ill or hospitalized: Grace Weise, Rose White, Toni Manseau, Daniel Bonior, Anthony Hicks, Roma Affelt, Mary Jo Parker, Yvonne Smith, Mary Segner, Janet Lazor, Kerry Wilhite, Fabian Tryjankowski, Daniel O'Callaghan, Terry Pfaendtner, Sophie Haas, Kay Balas, Joyce Martin, Stanley Remus, Mike McComsey, Bernice Phillips, Rose Castellani, Steve Lagae, James Sweeney, Audrey McLean, Faith Smith, Judi Quatrone, Maurice Paoletti, Freddie Haynes, Jr., Anne Blake, Marion McComsey, Hugh Grannum, Bernard Lazor, Cindy Drost-Urbiel, Lynn Kiley, Kathy Peterson, Mary Wherry, Amanda Westfall, Bill Rice, Pete Corsiglia, Carl Petzold, Colette Gilewicz, Charles Ebner, Sylvia Landuyt, Lois Grogan, Stephen Bush and Mary Jacobson.

Our Dead

Faithful parishioner and usher, **EDWARD OLSEN**, died suddenly on January 5, 2010. His funeral liturgy was celebrated here at St. Ambrose on January 11th by Fr. Pelc. His niece, the Rev. Michele Quinn, an Episcopal priest from Denver assisted in his burial service.

Ed and his wife, Barbara moved to the area in 1981. After retiring from GMAC he devoted his free time to sailing and became a Commodore at the Grosse Pointe Sail Club where he and Barb were in charge of the racing program. Ed also volunteered at the Dominican Literacy Center and was President of the Grosse Pointe Senior Men's Club.

Ed is survived by his wife, Barbara and children, Steven (Sally), Kathleen (John) and Laurie. He will be missed by his three grandchildren and niece, the Rev. Michele Quinn.

May his soul, and the souls of all our faithfully departed rest in peace.

A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today's Gospel at Cana we get an insight into Mary's parenting style. She did not plead, whine, argue, demand or manipulate. She pointed out the situation and trusted her son would make the right decision.

Liturgy Schedule for the Coming Week

Monday, January 18
8:30 a.m. - Communion Service

Tuesday, January 19
11:00 a.m. - Funeral - Barbara Fronrath

Wednesday, January 20
St. Fabian, pope & martyr
St. Sebastian, martyr
8:30 a.m. - Communion Service

Thursday, January 21
St. Agnes, martyr
8:30 a.m. - Mass - John O'Brien

Friday, January 22
St. Vincent, deacon & martyr
8:30 a.m. - Mass - Richard Cabot
In honor of Elizabeth Clevenger

Saturday, January 23
4:00 p.m. - Mass - For all the People

Sunday, January 24
The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 a.m. - Mass - For all the People
11:15 a.m. - Mass - For all the People



Scriptures for the 2nd Week in Ordinary Time

Monday, January 18

- 1 Sm 15: 16-23
- Ps 50: 8-9, 16-17, 21, 23
- Mk 2: 18-22

Tuesday, January 19

- 1 Sm 16: 1-13
- Ps 89: 20-22, 27-28
- Mk 2: 23-28

Wednesday, January 20

- 1 Sm 17: 32-33, 40-51
- Ps 144: 1b, 2, 9-10
- Mk 3: 1-6

Thursday, January 21

- 1 Sm 18: 6-9; 19: 1-7
- Ps 56: 2-3, 9-13
- Mk 3: 7-12

Friday, January 22

- 1 Sm 24: 3-21
- Ps 57: 2-4, 6, 11
- Mk 3: 13-19

Saturday, January 23

- 2 Sm 1: 1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27
- Ps 80: 2-3, 5-7
- Mk 3: 20-21

Sunday, January 24

- Neh 8: 2-4a, 5-6, 8-10
- 1 Cor 12: 12-30 or 12: 12-14, 27
- Lk 1: 1-4; 4: 14-21

Valentine's Dinner Dance

We're celebrating St. Valentine's Day with a Mardi Gras theme on Saturday, February 13th with dinner and dancing in the ARK. The event will once again feature a silent auction.

The party begins after the 4:00 mass with hors d'oeuvres and a chance to review and bid on wonderful auction items.

Tickets are \$25 per person with a cash bar. For reservations call 822-2814. To help us plan, please make reservations as soon as possible. How about ordering a whole table for your family and friends? Treat yourself to a gala evening with people you know and love.

Electronic Donations

St. Ambrose Parish is now equipped to make electronic transfers from your checking account or credit card on our website! Christian Financial Credit Union brings parishioners and friends the ability to make an electronic contribution to St. Ambrose on a regular or on a one-time basis.

Your checking account or credit card may be used to make a single donation; or you may set up automatic weekly, monthly or quarterly contributions on a schedule. This solution is not meant to replace the current envelope method of collection, but instead to provide an additional alternative for individuals who might prefer to make their contribution electronically. We hope that this additional financial service allows you another way of managing your stewardship to St. Ambrose. Log-on to stambrosechurch.net for more information on electronic giving.

ETC. - Eastside Take Control

The career networking group begun at St. Paul Catholic Church is now in partnership with St. Ambrose, Christ Church - Grosse Pointe, Grosse Pointe Memorial Church and Grace Community Church in order to provide even more information, resources, support and networking opportunities to those in career transition.

The new group is called ETC – Eastside Take Control – an Ecumenical Career Networking Group serving the Eastside community. The meetings, which are free of charge and open to the community, will be held Monday mornings from 7:30 - 9:00 a.m. and will rotate between four area churches as follows:

1st Monday of each month - Grace Community - The Cafe

2nd Monday of each month - St. Paul - Church Assembly Room

3rd Monday of each month - St. Ambrose - The ARK

4th Monday of each month - Christ Church - The Undercroft

Each one-hour meeting provides updates on group activities, information on a specific job-search related topic as well as time to network. Come join this new group and start your week off on the right foot! No reservations are needed. Please share this with anyone you know in need of support. For more information, please contact Sarah Sharp at (248) 219-5720 or sarahsharp521@gmail.com.

The following are the topics for the upcoming ETC meetings

*Meetings run from 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.
except the February 3rd session.*

January 18 - St. Ambrose

- Managing Money on a Tight Budget

January 25 - Christ Church

- Behavioral Interviewing Strategies

February 1 - Grace

- "I am" Statements and Self Identity

February 3 - Grace (Evening Event)

- Skill Scramble 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Resumes, behavioral interviewing and more in 20 minute segments.

February 8 - St. Paul

- The Value of Wellness

February 15 - St. Ambrose

- Going through Transition

February 22 - Christ Church

- Social Networking