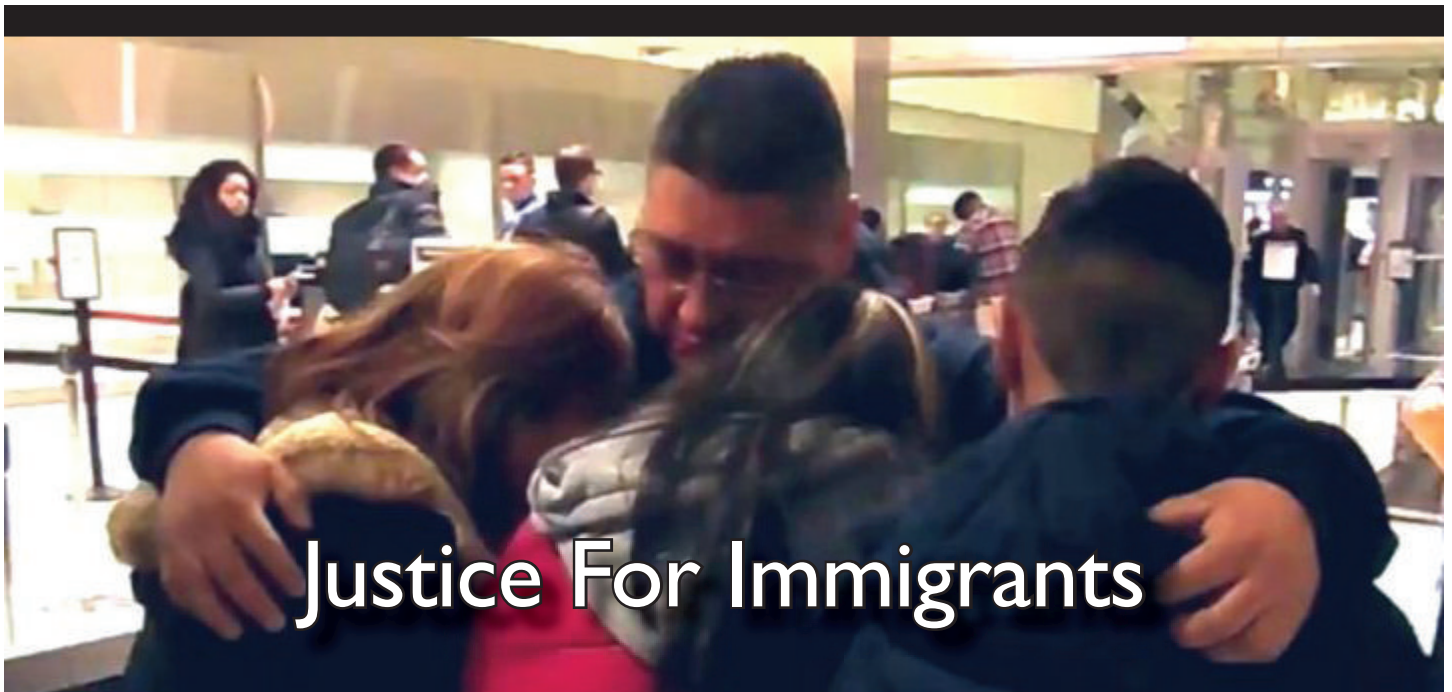


St. Ambrose Parish

JANUARY 21, 2018
BEEHIVE



Justice For Immigrants

*During National Migration Week, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' **Justice for Immigrants** campaign is currently working on behalf of the bishops, including our own Archbishop Alan Vigneron, to promote humane migration policies towards refugees and immigrants that reflect our Catholic values. Join our U.S. Catholic bishops in support of protecting immigrants and refugees by sending an electronic postcard or letter to Washington, DC asking that lawmakers ensure humane treatment and reforms towards migrants and refugees. More information about the Catholic bishops' JFI campaign may be found at justiceforimmigrants.org, and at sharejourney.org. The following Scriptural reflection on the topic was prepared by the USCCB.*

"No American institution does more for immigrants than your Christian communities. Now you are facing this stream of Latin immigration which affects many of your dioceses. Not only as the Bishop of Rome, but also as a pastor from the South, I feel the need to thank and encourage you." — Pope Francis, Prayer with the Bishops of the United States of America, September 2015

Immigrants who come to the United States, and particularly those who are undocumented, are a particularly vulnerable population who need someone to speak on behalf of their human rights and dignity. Our moral tradition calls on all people of faith and goodwill to stand up in defense of life and human dignity; it is a fundamental calling for us as Catholics. Scripture speaks repeatedly of the migration experience, from Abraham who was sent out from his homeland in the Old Testament, to the Holy Family who fled Herod and lived their lives for a time as refugees in a foreign land. When the scriptural or liturgical texts address migration and themes related to it, whether on special occasions or on regular Sundays, the homily can be an effective moment for prophetic instruction and encouragement.

The Holy Scriptures highlight the passing character of

existence and the importance that we not place too much trust in worldly goods. In recalling the temporal nature and recognizing the relative character of the goods of the earth, we must also guard against identifying too closely with the artificial divisions that separate one person from another, divisions that become visible too often with respect to things like economic class or national origin.

We must always behave towards others in such a way that respects their human dignity. We are called on to follow the path that God laid out for us and heed to the example of Christ, who "endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God. Consider how he endured such opposition from sinners, in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart" (Heb 12:1-4).

Welcoming the migrant and migration more broadly has a central place in the development of the Judeo-Christian tradition. Stories in both the Old and the New Testament highlight the fact that in providing hospitality to the stranger we might also be unwittingly entertaining angels (Heb 13:2; Gen 18:1-15).

Abraham unknowingly provided hospitality to the Lord in Mamre, and this helped secure for him and Sara a child. Not only did Abraham show such hospitality, but he himself was

Continued on page 2

Justice For Immigrants

Continued from page 1

once a migrant.

The Letter to the Hebrews, highlights the story of Abraham who, by faith, “obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he sojourned in the promised land as in a foreign country.” (Heb 11).

As we hear in the words of the Mass, our very faith has its roots by the decision made by one man, Abraham – a migrant – who decided to follow God’s command to travel to a foreign land.

Jesus tells us that when we throw a banquet, we should not invite our relatives or wealthy neighbors, “but the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind” (Lk 14). Does this have any bearing on policies that are put into place with respect to migration? It does not mean that we are obligated to invite all the world’s poor into the country and disregard the well-being of those who are already here. Rather, this passage challenges us to prioritize those who are suffering and marginalized.

It is for this reason that we must balance the demands of the common good of our country, while responding to the needs of those standing on the outside who can benefit from our wealth. This can mean that we should implement a generous immigration policy that enables people to come and work and try to earn a better living than they might have available to them in their homeland. This might also mean that we turn our attention to the developing world and try to help these countries, through such mechanisms as foreign aid and humane trade agreements, to build up their economy so that their citizenry can find work there and not have to leave their families and communities to find it elsewhere.

Too often the media messages that we hear in relation to migrants is distorted and provides a false understanding of who migrants are and why they come. The rhetoric surrounding this issue can easily bias people in ways that do not properly appreciate the benefits that migrants can bring to our communities. Teach people about what the Church’s rich body of social thought says about our Christian responsibility to “welcome the stranger among us.”

Catholic School Open Houses

St. Paul on the Lake Catholic School – January 28th from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
170 Grosse Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pt Farms • stpaulonthelake.com • (313) 885-3430

St. Clare of Montefalco Catholic School – January 28th from 2 – 4 p.m.
16231 Charlevoix, Grosse Pointe Park • stclareschool.net • (313) 647-5100

St. Germaine Catholic School – January 28th from 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
28250 Rockwood, St. Clair Shores • stgermaine.org • (586) 771 - 0890

Our Lady Star of the Sea School – January 28th from Noon – 3 p.m.
467 Fairford, Grosse Pointe Woods • starschoolgrossepointe.org • (313) 884-1070

St. Isaac Jogues – January 28th from 1 – 3 p.m.
21100 Madison Street, St. Clair Shores • stisaacjoguesschool.org • (586) 771-3525

U of D Jesuit High School & Academy - Call for registration information
8400 S. Cambridge, Detroit • uofdjesuit.org • (313) 862-5400

Regina High School - Call for registration information
13900 Masonic Blvd., Warren • reginahs.com • Phone: (586) 585-0500

De La Salle Collegiate - Call for registration information
14600 Common Road, Warren • delasallehs.com • Phone: 586.778.2207

Mass for Peace in Detroit

Archbishop Vigneron recently commissioned renowned Gospel musician and longtime Detroit music minister Keir Ward to compose a Gospel-style setting of the Mass as a gift of the Black Catholic Community to the entire Church. To conclude our New Year celebrations and launch Black History Month, all are invited to this special Mass to pray for an end to violence in the City of Detroit on Sunday, January 28th at 4 :00 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, 9844 Woodward Avenue. Archbishop Allen Vigneron will preside.

Vincentian Reflection

In this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus says: “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” As followers of Christ we are each called to continue God’s work on earth. Taking care of God’s poor is indeed living out the Gospel values. Have you considered answering the call to serve those living in poverty by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in our parish? You can make a difference and transform lives.



Givelify

Tap. Give. Done.

- Donations to our church have never been so easy!
- Give tithes and offerings from your smartphone
- Donate anytime, anywhere
- Track your donations
- Make us your home church on Givelify
- Free to download and use

givelify.com/app





All Things Considered

We have closed out our donation records for Fiscal Year 2017, and over the next few days, we will mail you your statement for Internal Revenue purposes. Some parishes never mail out statements. Others ask their parishioners to request a copy. I, however, think it important that everyone who has signed up as a member of the parish needs to have a tangible reminder of what they have contributed (or not) to the mission of your home church.

So I maintain the practice of taking time to personally review and sign each statement before mailing. I think that anyone who sacrifices for the parish deserves that kind of attention from their pastor. Every contribution is an important trust from you, and I want to treat that with the same care that I entrust the gifts of bread and wine at the altar given to God in your name.

- The way it usually breaks down is that about a third of the parish gives all the time.

- Then there is a second third of the parish that gives some of the time, either seasonally or for a project.

- Then there is the third sector of the parish that can't be convinced to, or cannot, give no matter what.

This breakdown would hold true for St. Ambrose and for almost every Catholic parish across the United States – no matter the place or size.

The current documented reality is that fewer than 1 in 3 Americans who identify themselves as Catholic attend Mass on a regular basis. Of those attendees, only 30% give to the support of their parish. Of those, many are likely to toss the same few crumpled dollar bills into the collection basket as their parents did before them.

And this is in a time when just keeping the lights on, the boiler heated up, employee health care and insurances paid, snow removed and roofs from leaking costs more than ever. The basic

operating costs of a parish shouldn't be confused for the "mission of Christ," but if these basics aren't met there is no place for the community to worship, no support for ministries and employees and for outreach efforts that make a parish so much more than a building.

In places where real attitudes and practices of stewardship have taken hold, there's a relatively seamless and widely shared commitment of time, talent, and treasure. It shows up in higher attendance levels, successful evangelization, and well-funded parish ministries. It also shows up in pastors not having to write or talk about money. When your financial statement arrives in the mail, use it for meditation and for an examination of conscience.

✂✂✂

The disturbing and pejorative statements that have come from the current President regarding persons from foreign lands is appalling. While this type of vulgar rhetoric may play well in some dark corners of American society, it can and should not go without a loud response from Catholics.

To this end, let me recommend a review of the materials prepared by our American Catholic Bishops' JUSTICE FOR IMMIGRANTS campaign. Make our Catholic position heard to our legislators and persons in the media. Take a look at the facts presented on page seven

of this issue then take a moment to email or tweet something to add grace to the debate, rather than more vitriol.

The front page photo of today's bulletin is of **Jorge Garcia** hugging his wife and two teenage children at Metro Airport. After 30 years of living in the U.S., Garcia, a 39-year-old Lincoln Park landscaper, was deported to Mexico on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. What bureaucratic irony!

Garcia was brought to the U.S. by an undocumented family member when he was 10 years old. Today he has a wife and two children, all of whom are U.S. citizens. He has no criminal record – not even a traffic ticket – and pays his taxes every year. He's been trying for years to find a path to live legally in the U.S., spending \$125,000 in legal costs and fees since 2005.

Garcia had been facing an order of removal from immigration courts since 2009, but under the Obama administration, he had always been given stays of removal. But because of the current administration's immigration crackdown, Garcia was ordered to return to Mexico. In the court of human opinion this is cruel. It's contrary to the Biblical notion of justice for the immigrant. And I would add, it's antithetical to the spirit and concept of America itself.

TRP

Sample Letter to a Senator/Representative

Dear Senator/Representative:

As a Catholic, I believe in the human dignity of all immigrants and refugees. With more than 65 million people displaced from their homes and over 22 million displaced outside their countries as refugees, we are currently witnessing the worst forced displacement crisis since World War II. I celebrate the contributions of refugees and immigrants in our churches, communities and in our country. I ask that you, as an elected official:

- *take this opportunity to meet an immigrant or refugee family in your community;*
- *initiate and support legislation that affirms the dignity of all migrants; and*
- *recognize the contributions of immigrants and refugees in your community.*

Sincerely,

**A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER
for the New Year**

Good and gracious God,
a new year of grace is upon us,
giving us impressions
of crisp beginnings
new goals, a fresh sense of hope.

Though we cling to our own
expectations
for the year ahead,
we know you alone
are the sovereign of our future,
Lord of our lives, and the source
of whatever good we may do.

We thank you, O Lord,
for the gift of the days and weeks
you have entrusted to us.

Teach us to be good stewards
of our time ahead,
that we go about our days
keeping you
at the center of our lives.
In the midst of our daily pursuits
and activities,
focus our eyes
on the needs of others;
help us respond with compassion
to the poor;
and open our hearts
to a suffering world.

We ask for a year of peace,
a year that brings an end
to hatred and strife,
and a year where we find
a deeper joy
that can only be found in you.

We ask this
through Christ your Son
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
One God, forever and ever.
Amen.

Post Diakonos

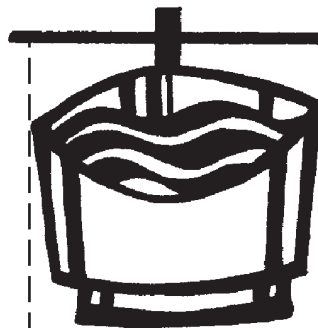
Three weeks! So what say that we look at the perennial New Year’s resolution chart-topper: to exercise more and/or lose weight. Me? Absolutely. That was my resolution. As for results, well — say, how about that Auto Show?

In truth I am in that number, my life history has shown me that only high spirits can bring about a low BMI. Periods of fitness have always gone together with periods of calm, productivity, and confidence. Is it possible to exercise one’s way into something like bliss? Your results may vary, but yes, I’d say so. Maybe not all the way – maybe 80%? 85? Being in harmony with my body brings my mind and my spirit about 80% of the way to wellness. And this is good and God is all over this. It’s a beautiful reality, and it fills me with hope. The reverse works, too; actually, it has to. In our sedentary times any movement into physical wellness has to begin with an act of the will. But after the initial kick-start I find that it’s the body that sustains the mind and spirit. In seeing this I can see what the psalmist meant in writing that we are “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139: 14). Paul loves body imagery – used repeatedly in weeks past – and there’s evidence that he highly valued athleticism. I am with him on his affection for running – the whole body immersion that comes from running long distances mirrors how I would most like to pray.

So body consciousness is high this time of year, and the Church in its wisdom realizes this (Maybe?) because it’s also high in the lectionary in the opening weeks of Ordinary Time. We’ve been hearing about God reaching across even the divide of sleep/wakefulness to call Samuel. In Mark’s Gospel, Jesus is revealed first of all as a bodily healer. And in Mark, we hear of a high-risk offer with no guarantees of “success,” or even a sense of what this actually involves. Jesus asks for the *entirety* of the fishermen’s lives as the condition for following him.

In the first throws of my conversion, which happened nearly ten years ago upon moving to Detroit, I was invited to Saturday morning Mass with the Missionaries of Charity, in Southwest Detroit. I didn’t know where else to go at the time, and I had committed to attending daily Mass, so this was a gift (this was before I knew of Saint Bonaventure’s). This congregation was founded by Saint Teresa of Calcutta, one of whose lay members (laymc.com) brought me to this juncture in my life. After that Saturday Mass came Eucharistic Adoration, my first experience of this kind of devotion. For all the time the consecrated host was exposed, the sisters would kneel on the hardwood floor of their chapel – and I, eventually, with them. And it hurt at first, a lot. Now I look back and see the experience for what it was: I was being shaped up, bodily and physically, to seek and follow God. Hips don’t lie. Neither do knees.

Fr. Robert Wotypka, OFM, Cap



*Return this to the Parish
Rectory or drop in the
Collection basket.*

**Christian Initiation
for Adults 2017-18**

NAME _____
HOME PHONE _____
- WORK PHONE _____
E-MAIL _____

The Buzz

As soon as you can, pick up your Bible or go online (usccb.org) and read the first two chapters of the Book of Jonah in the Old Testament. Today's first reading in our Liturgy from chapter 3 of that Book makes so much more sense within that context. Don't focus this time too much on the "fish", but rather get a feel for Jonah's attitude in his response to God's call and to the mission God gave him. I find a lot of humor in this story – but the kind of humor that should make us very uneasy when we personalize its implications for our own lives. I'd be very interested in your take on all this. Call, or let's chat about this the next time you see me in church.



Speaking of "calling" . . . this is the first Sunday of the new year when we read from the gospel of Mark, the main focus of Year-B's cycle of readings. Today we have Mark's version of the call of the first disciples to reemphasize what we heard in last Sunday's passage from John's Gospel.

But once again, focus on the sentences just before Simon and Andrew come into the picture. Jesus' call is to all: now is the time . . . recognize what's truly happening because of the Lord's presence . . . let it cause conversion in your life . . . embrace this as good (the best and only) news . . . then start moving forward with Christ . . . leave everything behind that would hold you back.

Is such a faith pattern meant for us? "That's for Apostles and saints – not me, right?" Be careful; those Apostles had a lot more reason to be skeptical that the Lord's call was meant for them than most of us have. Baptism, not Ordination, is at the forefront of this mystery of disciple/apostleship. So if you don't think this is meant for you and you want to argue with God about it, think again about Jonah and be very careful the next time you're motoring along Lake Shore Drive!



Speaking of water . . . we are in the middle (Jan. 18-25) of the annual worldwide ecumenical Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year the theme, prayer, and materials have been prepared by Christians from the Caribbean region of the world. The scriptural theme comes from Exodus 15:6 (see verses 1-21) "Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power".

A major historical context for this year's theme is the oppression and slavery of indigenous and African peoples in this area for centuries that still impact far too many. Haiti is part of the region, and its ongoing suffering. I find it ironic that while recent alleged vulgarities were aimed at these nations, the peoples' faith recognizes the truth of God's presence and answers the Lord's call to convert holes to holiness. You can rise with them and people of faith around the world by joining in prayer each day through this Thursday. Go online to oikoumene.org and click on the 2018 English language booklet that has prayers and other background materials for reflection and growth. The opposite direction is not healthy; just ask Jonah.



Monday, is the 45th anniversary of the Roe v Wade Supreme Court decision about abortion in the United States. Maybe we could spend some day soon in prayer and fasting. Perhaps the Lord will call you to new and effective ways to advance greater respect for (all) life in our land.

Chuck Dropiewski

Religious Education Reminders

- **First Eucharist Parent Meeting - January 24th** 6:30-8:00PM in the ARK. At least one parent is expected to attend this important preparation meeting.
- **Rite of Enrollment - January 28th** at the 11:15 AM Mass. A letter went out in the mail regarding this special liturgy for the First Reconciliation and First Eucharist students.
- **Progress Reports** – We just finished up our first semester in faith formation. Progress reports for all students will be mailed out in early February.

Pray Every Day



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

Daily Prayer 2018 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 prayerbooks 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 2018, 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. Robert Wotycka OFM, Cap
Assistant: Rev. Mr. John Maksym
Pastoral Minister: Charles Dropiewski
Religious Education: Kelly Anne Woolums
Minister of Music: Norah Duncan IV
Office Manager: Pamela Moffitt

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 22

Day of Prayer for the unborn

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Tuesday, January 23

St. Marianne Cope, virgin &

St. Vincent, deacon & martyr

8:30 a.m. - Mass- David White

Wednesday, January 24

St. Francis de Sales, bishop & doctor

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Thursday, January 25

The Conversion of St. Paul, apostle

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Paul and Stella Zawisa

Friday, January 26

SS. Timothy & Titus, bishops

8:30 a.m.- Mass - Paul Gould

Saturday, January 27

St. Fabian, pope & martyr

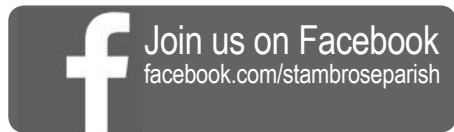
4:00 p.m. - Mass - For All People

Sunday, January 28

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. - For All People

11:15 a.m. - For All People



Scriptures for the Third Week in Ordinary Time

Monday, January 22

- 2 Sm 5: 1-7, 10
- Ps 89: 20-22, 25-26
- Mk 3: 22-30

Tuesday, January 23

- 2 Sm 6: 12b-15, 17-19
- Ps 24: 7-10
- Mk 3: 31-35

Wednesday, January 24

- 2 Sm 7: 4-17
- Ps 89: 4-5, 27-30
- Mk 4: 1-20

Thursday, January 25

- Acts 22: 3-16 or 9: 1-22
- Ps 117: 1-2
- Mk 16: 15-18

Friday, January 26

- 2 Tm 1: 1-8 or Ti 1: 1-5
- Ps 96: 1-3, 7-8a, 10
- Mk 4: 26-34

Saturday, January 27

- 2 Sm 12: 1-7a, 10-17
- Ps 51: 12-17
- Mk 4: 35-41

Sunday, January 28

- Dt 18: 15-20
- 1 Cor 7: 32-35
- Mk 1: 21-28

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time January 27th and January 28st

4:00 p.m. – Saturday – Celebrant: Fr. Wotyпка **Lector:** Pat Ticknor
Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Bennert, Maria Cox- & Adam Borkowski,
Jeri & Bob Krueger, Karen McShane
Altar Servers: Daniel & Eleanor Bernas

8:30 a.m. – Sunday – Celebrant: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Karlos Haynes
Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Drummond, Christopher Harrison,
Joan Jackson, Maggie Jackson, Bob Jogan, Bernadette Pieczynski
Altar Servers: Delaney Jackson, Nathan Lipka

11:15 a.m. - Celebrant: Fr. Pelc **Lector:** Kurt Vatalaro
Eucharistic Ministers: Pat & Michael Mocerri,
Sue & Roger Playwin, Cristina Swiatkowski
Altar Servers: Shea Vatalaro, Grace Whitaker

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

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

On Sunday, January 14, 2018

in envelopes we received	\$6,167.00
in the loose collection	\$507.00
in electronic donations	\$1,390.00
in children's envelopes.....	\$2.00
for a total of.....	\$8,066.00
<u>Under</u> budget for the week.....	\$2,034.00
Number of envelopes mailed	800
Number of envelopes used.....	154

"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." - Mark 1:17

Jesus' call to "Follow me" is a call to all Christians! The call is in the here and now, in our present circumstances, not when we think we are "ready" or have everything in order. Good stewardship of our God-given gifts means that things aren't always going to go according to our schedule and that God has a much better plan in store for each of us.

Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Andrew Chavez, Maria Chinchilla, Karen Culver, Kathleen Elberson, Ann Sullivan Kay, Josephine Marino, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Mary Myers, Jeanne Noto, David Schumacker, Matthew Elias, George Bucec, Scott Nedoff, Emilie Kasper, Arthur Stoyshin, Anna Noto Billings, Vilma Rivers, Vilma Marone, Eileen O'Brien, Darby O'Toole, Martha Luna, Dan Urbiel, Dina Engels, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, Mike Corron, Betty Greenia, Alexandra Cullen, Charmaine Kaptur and Alexandra Billiu.

Our Dead

On Friday, January 12th a funeral liturgy was celebrated by Fr. Robert Wotyпка for **Judith Hebda Johnson**, age 75.

Judy was born in Uniontown, Pennsylvania and moved with her family to the Detroit area. She graduated from St. Ambrose High School and went on to work for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan. She had many interests which included sports, the theatre and she sang in several choirs in the area. Judy also skied in Europe, Canada and Colorado. She enjoyed reading novels, and keeping in regular contact with many members and generations of her extended family.

Judy is survived by her husband, Jim and daughter, Krysten. Also surviving are her sisters, Connie, Lynn and Jeanette. She will also be missed by the rest of her family and friends. Keep Judy and her family in your prayers.

Bowling for Babies

Join Pregnancy Aid from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at Lakeshore Lanes for its annual fundraiser Bowling for Babies.

Enjoy unlimited bowling, shoe rental and food. The cost is \$15 per adult (20+) and \$10 for children 4 through 19. Children 4 and under are free.

Lakeshores Lanes is located at 31025 Jefferson (near 13 Mile Rd.), St. Clair Shores. Call Pregnancy Aid at 313.882.1000 for more information.

Many Journeys, One Family: National Migration Week

For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. The theme for National Migration Week 2017 draws attention to the fact that each of our families have a migration story, some recent and others in the distant past. Regardless of where we are and where we came from, we remain part of the human family and are called to live in solidarity with one another.

Unfortunately, in our contemporary culture we often fail to encounter migrants as persons, and instead look at them as unknown others, if we even notice them at all. We do not take the time to engage migrants in a meaningful way, as fellow children of God, but remain aloof to their presence and suspicious or fearful of them. During this National Migration Week, let us all take the opportunity to engage migrants as community members, neighbors, and friends.

Migration Facts: Immigration Reform

Position: The Catholic Bishops and the Catholic Church support humane immigration reform. We must reform our broken system that separates families and denies due process.

FACTS:

- Since 2010, 3.6 million immigrants have become naturalized U.S. citizens.
- Unauthorized immigrants also pay a wide range of taxes, including sales taxes where applicable and property taxes – directly if they own and indirectly if they rent. Estimates are that undocumented migrants pay \$11.64 billion every year in state and local taxes.
- In many cases, it can take over a decade for legal permanent residents to reunify with immediate family members from Mexico, the Philippines, and other countries (*See Congressional Research Service*).

Refugee Protection

Position: USCCB supports protection, humanitarian support, and durable solutions for refugees and other forcibly displaced people. USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services in collaboration with local Catholic Charities across the United States form the largest private, U.S. refugee resettlement network, and has helped welcome and resettle over one million refugees since 1975.

FACTS:

- The U.S. resettled 53,716 refugees in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 including 20,232 from Africa, 5,173 from East Asia, 5,205 from Europe, 1,688 from Latin America, and 21,418 from the Near East.
- The top six populations resettled during FY 2017 were from : Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Burma, and Ukraine.
- An estimated 21,027 Syrian refugees have been resettled in the United States since the start of the Syrian civil war in 2011.
- According to the United Nation's High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 65.6 million persons were displaced in the world at the end of 2016. (*UNHCR*)

Unaccompanied Children from Central America

Position: The United States should provide child welfare protection, refugee protection, and safe, humane durable solutions for unaccompanied children arriving at our borders without their parent or legal guardian. In recent years, many of these children have been from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Most are fleeing grave, life-threatening violence and gang recruitment and are seeking to reunify with family in the United States.

FACTS:

- In FY 2015, Mexico deported 165,000 Central Americans. The number detained in Mexico has tripled in the past four years amid grow-

ing pressure and economic support from the US to stem the flow. In calendar year 2016, the United States and Mexico returned 216,872 people to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Immigrant Detention

Position: The United States should fix our broken immigration system instead of taking an enforcement-only approach to dealing with **irregular** migration. Immigrant detention is a growing industry in this country, with Congress allocating as much as \$2 billion a year to maintain and expand it. The Administration's FY 2018 budget requests even more funding for detention. Due to mandatory detention laws people who are not flight risks or risks to national security and are extremely vulnerable, such as asylum-seekers, families, and victims of human trafficking, are being held unnecessarily in detention. There are alternatives to detention that are more humane, more cost-effective, and more consistent with American values.

FACTS:

- In FY2015 the Department of Homeland Security detained 406,595 immigrants compared to 486,651 in FY2014. (*Department of Homeland Security*)
- Over 200 county and city prisons contract with the federal government to detain immigrants and account for 67 percent of the population.
- Community-based alternatives to detention programs cost on average \$10.55 per person per day, as compared to \$164 per person per day for detention. (*GAO*)

Human Trafficking

Position: The United States must not only hold human traffickers accountable for their crimes, but also work to prevent trafficking and provide protection and healing to victims of trafficking. Human trafficking is defined as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of subjecting that person to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. The Catholic Church has long condemned this practice as an affront to human dignity.

FACTS:

- Estimates vary, but as many as 17,500 persons are trafficked into the United States annually.
- Although sex trafficking remains a serious problem, the two largest trafficking cases in the United States involved labor trafficking, in Guam and in New York (*Long Island*).

*Reprinted from National Migration Week Toolkit
produced by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops, usccb.org.*