



ST. AMBROSE PARISH
CENTENNIAL 1916-2016

Beehive

JANUARY 24, 2016

Kids in the Kingdom

My liturgical tastes used to tend toward the simple, but they've recently turned toward the chaotic. That's because I've come to experience the Mass through my almost-three-year-old son, who has taken a keen and devout interest in all things liturgical. Before he goes to sleep, my wife and I will hear him sing "Alleluia" in his room. During the day, he will often take the broom from the closet, hold it over his head, say it's a cross, and urge me to follow him in procession. When he finds a round piece of bread he tells me and my wife that it's Jesus and solemnly offers it to us. (Lest you think he's too advanced, I should add that he then offers us his cup of water and tells us to have some water.)

We recently moved to Chicago, and have ended up at a parish with many young families. At the 10:30 Mass, mine isn't the only toddler singing "alleluia" at inopportune moments or wandering around the church with both determination and joy. After Mass you see young parents chasing their children and slightly older parents looking bemused, knowing the kids can't get too far. In any event, it's easy enough to find the children. They tend to congregate around statues of Mary or around the piano to hear the music director play some Bach

after Mass. Perhaps they're running around the sanctuary or walking up the stairs of the pulpit or telling stories to the older members of the parish who can't get enough of them. And at some point they'll be sure to give the priest a high five.

My son's liturgical tastes have taken shape just as his metaphysical questions have started. "Why?" falls from his lips even more often than "alleluia" does. I can explain to his satisfaction why different trucks have different parts. At other times, though, my answers leave him—and me—unsatisfied. I've found that he asks his most curious questions and receives his least satisfying answers when we are at Mass. "Why does the priest say 'God bless you'?" "Why do Mommy and Babbo eat Jesus?" "Who is God?" These are all properly theological questions, which means they push up against the boundary between what can and cannot be said.

I thought I might find some insight in Scripture, and so I turned to the New Testament to see what it had to say about children. Paul makes some remarks about childhood and maturity in 1 Corinthians (14:30), but the most famous and most helpful remarks about children come from the gospels. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus refers to children twice.

Continued on page 2



Kids in the Kingdom

Continued from page 1.

The first time, when the disciples ask Jesus who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, he puts a child in their midst and says to them, "Truly I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:1-4). The second time, the disciples still haven't gotten the message, and they rebuke people for bringing their children to Jesus. Jesus then says, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:13-15).

"Humbles himself like this child..." In my limited experience I'm not sure "humble" is the word I'd use to describe toddlers. That same limited experience, though, has made me rethink my notions of the kingdom of heaven. We don't learn anything about the children or their parents in the gospel accounts. But if toddlers then were anything like toddlers now, I'm sure some were dancing and singing, playing in the dirt and running around Jesus and each other. I'm also sure some were upset and looking for more attention than they were getting. No doubt many were asking Jesus or their parents all sorts of questions that had no immediate answers. Who knows, maybe there was even a procession or an "alleluia." One of Jesus' central—and all too often forgotten—teachings is that the kingdom of heaven is here and now. If we need a reminder of what that kingdom looks like, we need look no further than the little ones at Mass.

November 15, 2015 blog by Scott D. Moringiello, assistant professor in the Department of Catholic Studies at DePaul University, commonwealmagazine.org.

Religious Education Update

This time of the year we are heavily into preparation for the sacraments. At this weekend's 11:15 liturgy we celebrate the Rite of Enrollment with children who are preparing to receive their First Communion in the spring. After the homily, these children will be called up to the altar by name (as we are called by name in Baptism). Fr. Bede will say a few words about preparation for this important sacrament and the role their parents and the community in helping these young people to prepare. Prayer cards with the names of each individual student are in the back of the church for parishioners to take home. If you do take one, be sure to pray for that child every day over the next few months. Let them know you are praying for them by sending them a note or a card via the parish office, or you may give it to me. Either way, the child you are praying for will receive your note!

This coming Wednesday our 8th graders begin their year of preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation. The Parent-Candidate Session for Confirmation will be held in the Ark on Wednesday, January 27th from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Betty



Because of an early Lent this year, our Valentine's Dinner, Dance & Auction will become a Mardi Gras Dinner, Dance & Auction which will be held in the ARK on **Saturday, February 6th**. Singles, couples, friends, lovers ... everyone is welcome!

We will once again include a fabulous silent auction with a variety of gifts and services. Proceeds will go completely to the operations budget of St. Ambrose. Individual ticket sales (sorry, no group reservations) take place after weekend masses and through our office during the week.

To make the auction as fabulous as last year's, we again need your help. Would you please consider donating to the silent auction? Maybe it's something you got as a gift for Christmas that you really don't like or need! Start gleaning some treasures from your collections to offer for the event. Obviously, the high-end items produce more revenue for the parish, with vacation packages, antiques, jewelry, sports tickets and memorabilia selling particularly well. Written appraisals and donation letters can be given for high-end items that may be used as a deduction for tax purposes.

To discuss donations or to arrange for pick-up or delivery, contact Bob or Jan Ramsey at (313) 885-4784, or speak with one of their committee members at church. But, to secure tickets to the event, contact Mary Urbanski at the rectory office (313) 822-2814. "Let the good times roll!"

**St. Ambrose
Liturgical Choir**

... now under the direction of
Norah Duncan, IV ... holds rehearsals on
Thursdays at 7:15 p.m. in the loft.
New members are always welcome.

Interested volunteers who would like to
sing for Lent, Holy Week and Easter but
cannot commit to the entire year are
especially welcomed at this time.

For more information, contact Dr.
Duncan through the parish office at
stambrose@comcast.net or stop up in
the loft before or after Sunday's masses.

All Things Considered

For most non-profits, one out of every two gifts comes in the last three months of the year. And 40 to 60 percent of those gifts are made the last two days of the year. It's my observation that this has certainly been true in the case of our parish.

Like many churches, we tend to live from major fund-raiser to the next. Our last healthy infusion of cash was in September at the Oysterfest. Collections through the fall have been sluggish. So, we greatly anticipated the end-of-year Christmas collection to catch up on things such as insurances, employee benefits, health care and Archdiocesan assessment. As soon as the Christmas collection was counted and in the bank, we were writing checks against it. With the funds that came in we were able to pay our insurances, health care, and retirement through November. We also were able to catch up with some general expenses. We were not able to bring our assessment payments up to date, but then there has never been a time in my memory as pastor that we have ever been on schedule with the assessment – the theory being that “you pay yourself last”. In this case, the “yourself” is our Archdiocese.

This year, our Christmas collection amounted to \$125,339. The previous Christmas, was \$133,903. So this year's Christmas collection was a disappointing 6% lower than the previous one.

I am grateful for the extreme generosity that so many families and individuals exhibited to the parish at Christmas time. But the reality is that we need both the holiday collection as well as a strong weekly collection to make things work around here. So far this year, we have not had either and I am at a loss to explain why.

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This year's Mardi Gras Dinner Dance and Auction is again in the capable hands of **Bob and Jan Ramsey** along with their auction crew consisting of **Lois Sokolowski, George Bush, Dan Convery, Lupe Davila, Ed & Jana Deron, Janet Dettloff, Carroll Deuben, Sue Dropiewski, Colette Gilewicz, Bernadette Gutowski, Arinda Mele, Mary Oberly, Grant & Stephenie Ruttinger, Shirley & Tracey Wyatt and Patty Yaden**. These folks are now busy assembling auction donations. Obviously, higher end items bring better profits to the parish. So, think not only about the “stuff” you have and don't utilize, but also things like vacation properties, services, tickets to events and sports memorabilia.

Call someone on the auction committee for ways, times and places to drop off items. You'll find that information on the next page. Tickets for the event are now on sale. Chef Fred always comes up with a spectacular meal – so I would recommend getting your tickets now because this event routinely sells out.

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On January 25th the Church commemorates the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle. Like St. Paul, the founder of the American order – the Paulists – **Issac Hecker** (1819-1888) experienced a conversion that led him to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Learn more about Fr. Hecker and his distinctively American style of evangelization at paulist.org/about/our-founder-path-sainthood.

The Paulist community seeks to proclaim the Word of God in ways that will reach people through contemporary media. They bring the Word and the Catholic tradition to young adults through BustedHalo.com.

St. Paul himself and our U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops speak powerfully to the hopeful truth that each of us is called and gifted by the Holy Spirit in the service of

God's people. Read the Bishops' document, entitled [Called and Gifted](#), which names how each of us is called to adult faith, to holiness, to community and to mission. Visit usccb.org/about/laity-marriage-family-life-and-youth/laity-called-and-gifted-for-the-third-millennium.cfm to prayerfully review their statement and discern your own giftedness in the eyes of God.

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Our Holy Father has released a new book this past week entitled, [The Name of God Is Mercy](#).

Actually, “book” may not be an accurate description. It is more like a “devotional pamphlet” logging in at just about 100 pages. It gives us **Pope Francis'** vision of the Church as expressed in a series of conversations given to a reporter, **Andrea Tornielli**. Francis tells lots of anecdotes about how he experienced mercy in his childhood and as a young priest. In doing so, he explains his reasons for proclaiming a Holy Year of Mercy. He reiterates that the Church cannot close the door on anyone – that, on the contrary, its duty is to find its way into the consciousness of people so that they can assume responsibility for, and move away from, the bad things they have done.

We have asked **Bishop Thomas Gumbleton** to join us on the Second Sunday of Lent, February 21st, at 9:45 in the ARK to go over the themes of Pope Francis' book. Bishop Gumbleton's reflection on the Pope's book is open to all interested. There are no fees and registration is not necessary.

While reading the book before Gumbleton's presentation is recommended, it is not essential to do so. You may opt to use this book as a prolonged source of Lenten meditation. [The Name of God Is Mercy](#) is published by Random House and is also available from Random House Audio and in a Random House large print edition. Check with your local or online book seller.

TRP



Bee *at the* Tee
St. Ambrose Golf Classic
Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park

Save the Date!
Friday, June 10, 2016.

Make plans now to join the St. Ambrose 2nd Annual Bee at the Tee Classic benefiting our Religious Education program and activities related to our Centennial year!

Last year, over 80 people were involved in some way, golfing, dining, volunteering or just socializing. The goal for this year is at least a 100 golfers – keeping in the spirit of our centennial year.

Bee at the Tee begins at 11:00 AM with sign-in/lunch. Picture at noon, then a shot gun start for golf. The day concluded with dinner at the ARK.

You can register at www.planmygolfevent.com/26900-St-AmbroseBeeAtTheTee/ or use one of the flyers located at the back of church. Don't play golf? Join us for dinner or consider volunteering for the golf course or dinner.

You can also help with a sponsorship, many levels exist to suite every budget. You can also help by spreading the word and help us get additional sponsors-consider asking your doctor, dentist, accountant or lawyer.

Dave Simmet and Brian Satterfield are also looking for a few other folks to be on our planning committee. Contact us at St.Ambrosegolf@gmail.com for more information.

Friar on Fire

Where do you see Hope? This past weekend was a time filled with hope in our ministry for young adults. There was a service opportunity for young adults to come and serve at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen on Saturday and on Sunday we hosted Tap Into Life. I find that there is a great surge of new energy coming through the Church and the world, and I definitely see so much hope in the Young Adults that I am encountering.

I have seen so much growth in the faith formation of these young adults as I reflect back on my experience that started five months ago. Working with other young adults to develop and build up a ministry that truly tends to the needs of the hearts of these young men and women has been a great privilege and honor.

One of the most inspiring aspects of the Tap Into Life ministry is how young adults who are both friends and strangers come together and break open their hearts and lives to great depth. The call and need to talk about life and how we can walk with each other is something that young adults are constantly searching for.

I think sometimes in our society and culture we get caught up in the mind-set that we need to be independent and that we don't need the help of others to get to where we want or need to be. What we are finding in Tap Into Life is that we truly need each other. It is not about always getting to the top of the world in our jobs and occupations, but it is also about what gives us life and what is meaningful. How do we help walk with each other and support one another on the path of life in a way that nourishes the heart? We are invited then as brothers and sisters on the journey to stop and listen to one another and how we can inspire one another in new ways and commit to decisions that are life-giving.

I think sometimes we forget that Jesus was a young adult in his ministry as the Son of God. He invites all people to truly Tap Into Life and tap into the wellspring and the mercy that comes from the Love of God. Hope is found in the hearts of young adults and the hearts that are willing to tap into the mystery, wonderment, and awe of encounter with another and with God.

Jesus in the Gospel this week stands up for the first time in his ministry as a young adult to proclaim the word and inspire others. He opens up the year with proclaiming that life is about reaching out to those people in the world and in our personal lives who need God's abundant Love.

We are invited by Jesus to be "fulfilled in our hearing" and open our ears and hearts to the life of the person who is before us. We are invited to believe and see hope in children, young adults and especially (with respect) our elders. Hope is then something that is seen in how we inspire one another to stay committed to the Gospel life of supporting and loving one another in the journey of life.

Most importantly, hope is found and fulfilled in our hearing in the silence of mystery. God speaks and fulfills our lives when we are lost, broken and confused. God is always there in the journey of our life through our decisions and our uncertainties. When we need to tap into the heart of God all we need to do is listen to his word that is already overflowing our life. May we Tap Into Life and always be fulfilled in our hearing as faithful people listening to the silence and wonderment of God.

Br. Tom

Vincentian Reflection

Today's scripture reveals Jesus describing: "the spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor." Have you considered answering the call to "bring glad tidings to the poor" by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

The Buzz

It seems hard to believe, but a week from tomorrow we'll be flipping to the second page of our parish 2016 Centennial calendar. February is just about here! How has the first 8% of your year been going?

Easter is somewhat early this year, and Lent is only 2½ weeks away. Before then, a trio of Sundays in Ordinary Time focus on God's call and our response to be prophetic disciples. Now I don't know about you, but I don't remember "prophetic discipleship" as a term most Catholics were brought up to use about themselves. Prophets were mostly mysterious, scary-talking figures from the Bible – primarily from the Old Testament. Disciples, then, were the twelve followers of Jesus. Right? Well . . .

Today, anyone who has had a child baptized or been at such a ceremony has heard the very beautiful prayer that accompanies the anointing with chrism right after the water portion of the ritual:

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed you into his holy people. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life. Amen.

All of us who are baptized are called to be prophets ... like Jesus. As disciples, as learners, we look to our Master-Teacher's example for instruction on how to do this. And if your first reaction to all this is that it can't be referring to you because you're not talented enough or religious enough or anything-else enough . . . just look again at Isaiah, Jeremiah, Paul, Simon-Peter, or any of the others. They all had better excuses than you. But God chooses us not because of our worthiness or abilities, but to show that it is His ways and means that make it work. For us it takes a lot of ordinary times, Lents, etc. to figure this out and cooperate. If you help me to remember to do this, I'll promise to help you too.



In Just over a week, we have a very special celebration that has a connection to prophetic discipleship as well. Tuesday, February 2nd, is the 40th day after Christmas. Since the year 386, Christians have marked the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple on this day with the use of candles. These recall the famous words of Simeon who, with the prophetess Anna, held Jesus in his arms and declared Him "a revealing light to the Gentiles, the glory of your people Israel." It is customary to offer candles blessed on this day to the faithful for use at home.

But it's not just about candles! In communion with Christ, can you hear Simeon's words at all referring to you in 2016? Whose day/life are you called to gloriously brighten? . . . Then on Wednesday (St. Blaise Day), when our throats are blessed using candles ... whose hurts might God call you to heal?



By the way, this Tuesday – January 26th – is the feast day of two bishop-saints of the New Testament: Timothy and Titus. How about if we all take some moment on Tuesday to pray for our own apostolically ordained, prophetic pastor (in his 30th year here!) on his patronal feast day. May the light of the Holy Spirit guide him and good health bless him for all the (many!) days of his future with and for us. Amen.

Chuck Dropiewski

Marcellina's Book Club

POPE FRANCIS
THE NAME OF GOD IS MERCY

In The Name of God is Mercy, his first book published as Pope, and in conjunction with the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis here invites all humanity to an intimate and personal dialogue on the

subject closest to his heart—mercy—which has long been the cornerstone of his faith and is now the central teaching of his papacy.

In this conversation with Vatican reporter Andrea Torielli, Francis explains – through memories from his youth and moving anecdotes from his experiences as a pastor – why "mercy is the first attribute of God."

Book club will meet Sunday morning, February 21st from 9:45-11:00 am in the ARK. No cost; no preregistration; come join us.

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. Thomas Nguyen, ofm, cap
Pastoral Minister: Charles Dropiewski
Religious Education: Elizabeth Haley
Minister of Music: Norah Duncan, IV
Office Manager: Lois Sokolowski

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
Ark Scheduling: (313) 822-2814
Parish Website: stambrosechurch.net

Liturgy Schedule for the Coming Week

Monday, January 25

The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Tuesday, January 26

SS. Timothy & Titus, bishops

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Eugene Martin

Wednesday, January 27

St. Angela Merici, virgin

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Thursday, January 28

St. Thomas Aquinas, priest & doctor

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Friday, January 29

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Saturday, January 30

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

Sunday, January 31

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

1:15 a.m. - Mass - For All People



Scriptures for the 3rd Week in Ordinary Time

Monday, January 25

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

Tuesday, January 26

- 2 Tm 1: 1-8 or Ti 1: 1-5
- Ps 96: 1-3, 7-8a, 10
- Mk 3: 31-35

Wednesday, January 27

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

Thursday, January 28

- 2 Sm 7: 18-19, 24-29
- Ps 132: 1-5, 11-14
- Mk 4: 21-25

Friday, January 29

- 2 Sm 11: 1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17
- Ps 51: 3-7, 10-11
- Mk 4: 26-34

Saturday, January 30

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

Sunday, January 31

- Jer 1: 4-5, 17-19
- 1 Cor 12: 31-13: 13 or 13: 4-13
- Lk 4: 21-30

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 30th and January 31st

4:00 p.m. - Saturday - Celebrant: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Elizabeth Puleo-Tague

Eucharistic Ministers: Beverly Bennert, Adam & Maria Borkowski,
Peter Hern, Ron Hoffman, Mary Helen Quigg-Hillyer

Altar Servers: Julianna & Kiernan Tague

8:30 a.m. - Sunday - Celebrant: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Bob Gatzke

Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Gatzke, Liz & Steve Linne,
Bernadette Pieczynski, Joellyn Valgoi, Chris Walsh

Altar Servers: Carrigan, Erica, McKenna & Cory McGraw

11:15 a.m. - Sunday - Celebrants: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Pat Sperti

Eucharistic Ministers: Doris Fleming, Sue & Roger Playwin,
Janis Ramsey, Darryl Swiatkowski, Cynthia Warner

Altar Servers: Agata, Mateusz, Dominik & Malvina Lubanski

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

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

On Sunday, January 17, 2016

in envelopes we received \$13,188.00

in the loose collection \$524.00

in electronic donations \$1,200.00

in children's envelopes \$8.00

for a total of **\$14,920.00**

Over budget for the week \$4,820.00

Number of envelopes mailed 800

Number of envelopes used 177

Good stewards rejoice in being followers of Jesus. They realize that Jesus' commission is their commission as well. They embrace it and adopt it as their own. We, too, have "glad tidings" to bring to a suffering world. This year, how will we fulfill Christ's commission in the world in which he has placed us, using the gifts he has entrusted to us?

Our Sick

Please pray for our parishioners who are seriously ill or hospitalized:

Kay Balas, Peyton Barron, Pat Blake, Laura Bush, Dominic Centorbi, Andrew Chavez, Maria Chinchilla, Karen Culver, Mary Pat Egan, Kathleen Elberson, Dan Fleming, Mary Ellen Greenup, Bernadette Gutowski, Angela Hansen, Elizabeth Howard, Ann Sullivan Kay, Donald & Marilyn Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Mary Myers, Jeanne Noto, Ray Oberly, Elizabeth Robert, Bob Ramsey, David Schumacker, Irene & Bryan Scopel, Fred Schroeder, Matthew Elias, Susan Bucec, Scott Nedoff, Anne Billiu, Felix Checki, Betty Greenia, Emilie Kasper, Angeline Boluk, David White and Arthur Stoyshin.

Water for Flint

A once-quiet crisis in Flint is now drawing voluminous concern from around the nation as celebrities, politicians and presidential candidates steer attention to the toxic tap water in one of Michigan's most beleaguered cities.

A retired classmate of mine, Fr. Gary McInnis has been helping out at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Flint, for the past three years. I thought that our parish could offer him some direct assistance with fresh, bottled water and/or water filtration systems. We'd arrange to have a delivery from here to Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish once a week. Leave your donations in the church vestibule or call our office to make arrangements for a drop-off. Thanks!

Fr. Tim

Marriage Encounter

There's still time to make a new year's resolution. Resolve to register for a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. The 2016 dates are:

January 29th-31st at the Holiday Inn Express in Troy. April 8th-10th* at Sacred Heart in Grosse Ile. June 24th-26th* at Shrine High School in Royal Oak. August 19th-21st* at St. Lawrence in Utica. Sept. 23rd-25th at the Holiday Inn Express in Troy; Nov. 4th-6th* at Gabriel Richard High School in Riverview. Call 888-322-9963 or visit encounterdetroit.org to register.

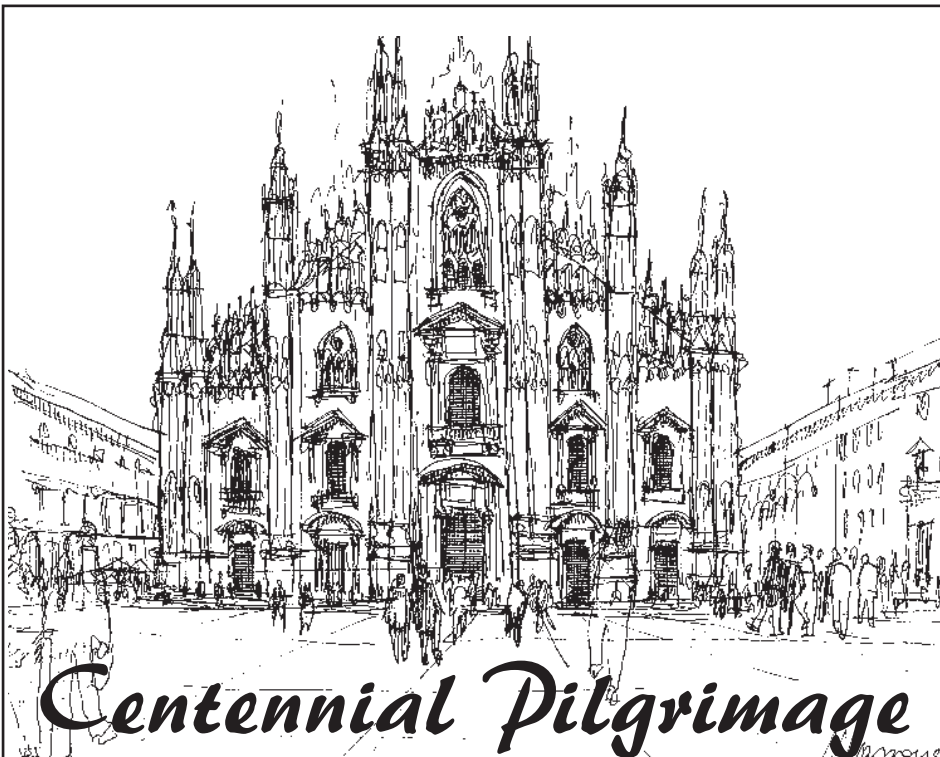
**In-Parish Weekends, couples go home at night.*

E-Donations

Whether you are in town or not, a dependable donation is essential to the operation of our parish. St. Ambrose is equipped on our website to make electronic transfers from your checking account or credit card. Christian Financial Credit Union brings our parishioners and friends the ability to make an electronic contribution to our parish on a regular – or one-time basis.

Your checking account or credit card can be used to make a single donation; or you may set up automatic weekly, monthly, or quarterly contributions on a specific schedule. We hope this financial service allows you an easy way to manage your stewardship responsibility toward the operations of our parish.

A set electronic contribution also helps our parish maintain a steady revenue during months when many are traveling and away from the parish. While our parishioners may go on vacation, our parish does not. Visit stambrosechurch.net for more information on electronic giving, or call our office for assistance.



Centennial Pilgrimage

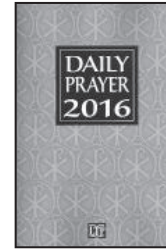
Travel planners **Lisa Morreale** and **Patti Ralko** are readily available to answer questions about our St. Ambrose Centennial Pilgrimage to Milan. The dates for the trip are May 25th – June 1st, all in and around the city of St. Ambrose – *Milano*.

The cost for land and airfare per person will be \$3,945 (based on 30 pilgrims) which includes 6 nights' lodging, transfers, guides and some meals. Lisa and Patti are willing to work with those who might want to make other air arrangements outside of the group, including those who might want to use frequent flyer miles, or to add days for an extension to Rome for the Holy Year festivities.

To secure a place on our Centennial Pilgrimage, we need a deposit of \$800 per person. The absolute cutoff date for reservations is January 31st.

Highlights of this trip would be seeing Da Vinci's masterpiece, The Last Supper; mass at the tomb of our patron, Saint Ambrose; a tour of the City's Brea district and the Brea Gallery; the *Castello Sforzesco*; the *Duomo* (the Cathedral where St. Ambrose baptized St. Augustine); a tour of the *La Scala* Opera house (with an opportunity to take in a performance of Puccini's Girl of the Golden West; participation at a choir mass in the ancient Ambrosian Rite in the *Basilica di Sant' Ambrogio*; an afternoon excursion to Lake Como; plus guided sightseeing in the city and ample time for leisure and shopping. If you want to discuss details with Lisa or Patti, you can contact them at lisa@Travelworld.bz or pralko@hotmail.com

PrayEvery Day



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

Daily Prayer 2016 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 2016, stop in the back of church or call the rectory office at 822-2814.

 Join us on Facebook
facebook.com/stambroseparish

Blessing of Throats

Wednesday, February 3rd, is the feast of St. Blaise. Blaise was the Bishop in what we know as modern day Armenia. He once saved a boy from choking to death, and for this reason, he is invoked against diseases of the throat. As part of one of the final purges conducted by the Romans against Christians, Blaise was arrested, tortured and beheaded in the city of Sebaste in the year 316. His feast was immediately popular among Eastern Christians, and his fame was later brought to the Western Church by the Crusaders.

In accord with custom, we will invoke the protection of St. Blaise on those who come to have their throats blessed on his feast day. We'll conduct individual throat blessings on Wednesday, February 3rd, at noon and 7 p.m. in the evening. Please join us.