



ST. AMBROSE PARISH
CENTENNIAL 1916-2016

Beehive

JANUARY 3, 2016

OVERCOME INDIFFERENCE AND WIN PEACE

more open “to those living on the outermost fringes of society fringes which modern society itself creates”, and to refuse to fall into “a humiliating indifference or a monotonous routine which prevents us from discovering what is new! Let us ward off destructive cynicism!”

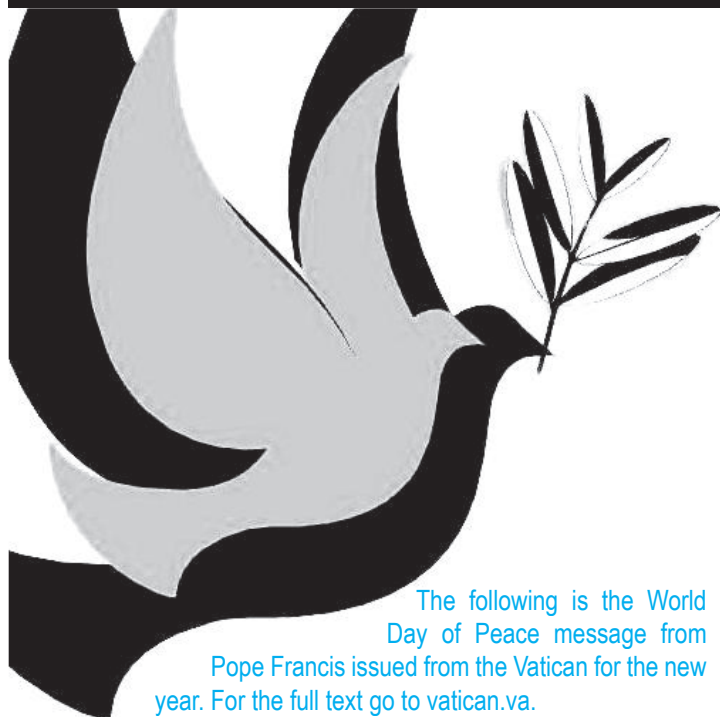
There are many good reasons to believe in mankind’s capacity to act together in solidarity and, on the basis of our interconnection and interdependence, to demonstrate concern for the more vulnerable of our brothers and sisters and for the protection of the common good. This attitude of mutual responsibility is rooted in our fundamental vocation to fraternity and a life in common. Personal dignity and interpersonal relationships are what constitute us as human beings whom God willed to create in his own image and likeness. As creatures endowed with inalienable dignity, we are related to all our brothers and sisters, for whom we are responsible and with whom we act in solidarity. Lacking this relationship, we would be less human. We see, then, how indifference represents a menace to the human family. As we enter a new year, I would ask everyone to take stock of this reality, in order to overcome indifference and to win peace.

PEACE THREATENED BY INDIFFERENCE

Indifference towards God transcends the purely private sphere of the individual and affects the public and social sphere. As Benedict XVI pointed out, “the glorification of God and human peace on earth are closely linked.” Indeed, “without openness to the transcendent, human beings easily become prey to relativism and find it difficult to act justly and to work for peace. Disregard and the denial of God, which lead people to acknowledge no norm above himself and himself alone, have produced untold cruelty and violence.

On both the individual and communitarian levels, indifference to one’s neighbour, born of indifference to God, finds expression in disinterest and a lack of engagement, which only help to prolong situations of injustice and grave social imbalance. These in turn can lead to conflicts or, in any event, gen-

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The following is the World Day of Peace message from Pope Francis issued from the Vatican for the new year. For the full text go to vatican.va.

God is not indifferent! God cares about mankind! God does not abandon us! At the beginning of the New Year, I would like to share not only this profound conviction but also my cordial good wishes for prosperity, peace and the fulfilment of the hopes of every man and every woman, every family, people and nation throughout the world.... We trust that 2016 will see us all firmly and confidently engaged, on different levels, in the pursuit of justice and peace. Peace is both God’s gift and a human achievement. As a gift of God, it is entrusted to all men and women, who are called to attain it.

MAINTAINING OUR REASONS FOR HOPE

Sadly, war and terrorism, accompanied by kidnapping, ethnic or religious persecution and the misuse of power, marked the past year from start to finish. In many parts of the world, these have become so common as to constitute a real “third world war fought piecemeal”. Yet some events of the year now ending inspire me, in looking ahead to the New Year, to encourage everyone not to lose hope in our human ability to conquer evil and to combat resignation and indifference. They demonstrate our capacity to show solidarity and to rise above self-interest, apathy and indifference in the face of critical situations.

... In the present Jubilee of Mercy I want to invite the Church to pray and work so that every Christian will have a humble and compassionate heart, one capable of proclaiming and witnessing to mercy. It is my hope that all of us will learn to “forgive and give,” to become

OVERCOME INDIFFERENCE

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erate a climate of dissatisfaction which risks exploding sooner or later into acts of violence and insecurity.

Indifference and lack of commitment constitute a grave dereliction of the duty whereby each of us must work in accordance with our abilities and our role in society for the promotion of the common good, and in particular for peace, which is one of mankind's most precious goods.

On the institutional level, indifference to others and to their dignity, their fundamental rights and their freedom, when it is part of a culture shaped by the pursuit of profit and hedonism, can foster and even justify actions and policies which ultimately represent threats to peace. Indifference can even lead to justifying deplorable economic policies which breed injustice, division and violence for the sake of ensuring the wellbeing of individuals or nations. Not infrequently, economic and political projects aim at securing or maintaining power and wealth, even at the cost of trampling on the basic rights and needs of others. When people witness the denial of their elementary rights, such as the right to food, water, health care or employment, they are tempted to obtain them by force.

Moreover, indifference to the natural environment, by countenancing deforestation, pollution and natural catastrophes which uproot entire communities from their ecosystem and create profound insecurity, ends up creating new forms of poverty and new situations of injustice, often with dire consequences for security and peace. How many wars have been fought, and how many will continue to be fought, over a shortage of goods or out of an insatiable thirst for natural resources?

FROM INDIFFERENCE TO MERCY: THE CONVERSION OF HEARTS

God does not remain indifferent. He is attentive and he acts... in Jesus his Son, God has come down among us. He took flesh and showed his solidarity with humanity in all things but sin. Jesus identified with us: he became "the first-born among many brethren" (Rom 8:29). He was not content merely to teach the crowds, but he was concerned for their welfare, especially when he saw them hungry (cf. Mk 6:34-44) or without work (cf. Mt 20:3). He was concerned not only for men and women, but also for the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, plants and trees, all things great and small. He saw and embraced all of creation. But he did more than just see; he touched people's lives, he spoke to them, helped them and showed kindness to those in need. Not only this, but he felt strong emotions and he wept (cf. Jn 11:33-44). And he worked to put an end to suffering, sorrow, misery and death.

Mercy is the heart of God. It must also be the heart of the members of the one great family of his children: a heart which beats all the more strongly wherever human dignity – as a reflection of the face of God in his creatures – is in play. Jesus tells us that love for others – foreigners, the sick, prisoners, the homeless, even our enemies – is the yardstick by which God will judge our actions. Our eternal destiny depends on this

This then is why "it is absolutely essential for the Church and for the credibility of her message that she herself live and testify to mercy. Her language and her gestures must transmit mercy, so as to touch the hearts of all people and inspire them once more to

find the road that leads to the Father. The Church's first truth is the love of Christ. The Church makes herself a servant of this love and mediates it to all people: a love that forgives and expresses itself in the gift of oneself. Consequently, wherever the Church is present, the mercy of the Father must be evident. In our parishes, communities, associations and movements, in a word, wherever there are Christians, everyone should find an oasis of mercy."

We too, then, are called to make compassion, love, mercy and solidarity a true way of life, a rule of conduct in our relationships with one another. This requires the conversion of our hearts: the grace of God has to turn our hearts of stone into hearts of flesh (cf. Ezek 36:26), open to others in authentic solidarity. For solidarity is much more than a "feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far." Solidarity is "a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say, to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all", because compassion flows from fraternity.

Understood in this way, solidarity represents the moral and social attitude which best corresponds to an awareness of the scourges of our own day, and to the growing interdependence, especially in a globalized world, between the lives of given individuals and communities and those of other men and women in the rest of the world.

BUILDING A CULTURE OF SOLIDARITY AND MERCY

Solidarity, as a moral virtue and social attitude born of personal conversion, calls for commitment on the part of those responsible for education and formation. I think first of families, which are called to a primary and vital mission of education. Families are the first place where the values of love and fraternity, togetherness and sharing, concern and care for others are lived out and handed on. They are also the privileged milieu for transmitting the faith, beginning with those first simple gestures of devotion which parents teach their children.

Teachers, who have the challenging task of training children and youth in schools or other settings, should be conscious that their responsibility extends also to the moral, spiritual and social aspects of life. The values of freedom, mutual respect and solidarity can be handed on from a tender age.

Communicators also have a responsibility for education and formation, especially nowadays, when the means of information and communication are so widespread. Their duty is first and foremost to serve the truth, and not particular interests

SOLIDARITY, MERCY AND COMPASSION

While conscious of the threat posed by a globalization of indifference, we should also recognize that, in the scenario I have just described, there are also many positive initiatives which testify to the compassion, mercy and solidarity of which we are capable.

Here I would offer some examples of praiseworthy commitment, which demonstrate how all of us can overcome indifference in choosing not to close our eyes to our neighbor. These represent good practices on the way to a more humane society.

There are many non-governmental and charitable organizations, both within and outside the Church, whose members, amidst epidemics, disasters and armed conflicts, brave difficulties

Continued on page 7

All Things Considered

I want to extend my word of thanks for the extraordinary generosity this parish has shown to the needy in our neighborhood. Your overwhelming support for the **Pregnancy Aid Society** confirms our deeply held Catholic belief of the holiness of every human life. There will be moms and newborns who all year long will benefit from the gifts you have brought for them this Christmas.

Then too, your support of the local chapter of our **St. Vincent de-Paul Society** was equally admirable. You hugely supported their “Pasta For The Poor” benefit. The proceeds from which were rapidly converted to direct assistance for our neighbors in terms of emergency food, utility and rent assistance.

Shortly after that dinner, 33 needy families were “adopted” by our parishioners, thus providing a happy Christmas in places where there otherwise would not have been one.

Our patron **Saint Ambrose** more than 16 centuries ago established scripturally based principles on sharing wealth. Ambrose believed that everything on earth was a gift from God and that all had a share in it. He saw the role of bishops as upholders of the peace, which would exist as long as people had access to life’s basic necessities. In that, Ambrose’s approach to philanthropy would resonate with what **Pope Francis** preaches in our time.

This parish is here today because we have a tradition of seeing those who are not seen, hearing those who are not heard and loving those who are not loved. Saint Ambrose would be proud that we “got” his message.

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As one of the events in our Centennial Year celebration, we’re organizing a pilgrimage to Milan, Italy

– to the original parish of St. Ambrose. Once there, we will be able to participate in the other attractions of that great city, including a performance at the world famous LaScala Opera.

Since it is a Holy Year, our pilgrimage will include an optional extension to the city of Rome – including the ability to walk through the *Porta Sancta*, a visit to the major basilicas, time to pray in the catacombs and participation in a general audience with Pope Francis. We can’t delay much longer in making these arrangements. Our pilgrimage is set for the last week in May through the first week in June. Check out page 7.

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When

I knew that our Music Minister **Marilyn Biery** would not be able to stay with us, I turned to an old friend, **Norah Duncan**, to ask for his assistance in finding a replacement. I had gone to Norah a number of times during my pastorate asking for advice. When Norah left the Music Ministry at our Cathedral, I asked if he would be willing to come to St. Ambrose. I asked him again when **John Guinn** died. While Norah expressed a desire to work again in a city parish, he felt that he needed time to settle into his new job as the head of Wayne State’s Music Department. He always politely declined my offers.

No one was more surprised than I was when I talked with Norah a few weeks ago about finding a music minister for our parish and he said, “I think I’m now ready to come to St. Ambrose.”

So starting this weekend – and hopefully continuing for the next two years at minimum – Norah will climb to our organ loft, take reins of our choir and lead us in worship at our Sunday liturgies.



Norah Duncan IV

Norah Duncan IV is professor and Chair of the Department of Music at Wayne State University. Additionally, he directs the WSU Concert Chorale and coordinates many of the choral concerts presented by the Department of Music.

Norah holds a Doctorate in Musical Arts (Church Music/Organ Performance) from the University of Michigan.

As a liturgical musician, he was the music director for the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament for 26 years. That made him the second longest serving Roman Catholic cathedral musician in the country. Among his achievements during that assignment was as the director of music for the historic visit of Pope John Paul II to Detroit in 1987.

Norah has been on the editorial review board for Oregon Catholic Press – the publisher of our hymnal – and presently is a member of the music review committee for the revision of “Lead Me, Guide Me,” the African American Catholic hymnal. He is also a member of the Education Board of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

Norah has presented major concerts under the Cathedral Cultural Series with the Archdiocesan Chorus and has collaborated in concerts with the Wayne State University choral ensembles and the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. He has conducted in Europe and in New York – at Carnegie Hall as well and at the Apollo Theatre.

I know that with Norah’s arrival at St. Ambrose during our Centennial Year, we have been blessed. I’ve said it before – St. Ambrose who is the patron of Church Musicians – always seems to find the right person to occupy the musical leadership of this parish who bears his name.

With Norah in our loft, prepare for an explosion of great music!

TRP

Name

_____Home Phone

_____Work Phone

_____Email Address

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

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

The Buzz

Epiphany always makes me wonder how billions of Christians have come to discover the Lord. What's your story? Is it one of dramatic personal encounter (*ala* St. Paul); is it one of cultural expectation (*ala* many of us through family, parish, school, etc.); is it one of personal search (*ala* the Magi)?

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

As we begin 2016, how are you and I doing at "getting the point"? We have a great foundation for faith prepared for us. It points us in the right direction; it warmly invites us to journey to meet Him. If you are reading this, it probably means you have come to this "house of bread" (beth-lehem). Did you find Him? Did you get the point of it all? The beginning of a New Year is a good time to make a resolution to spend 2016 prayerfully ready to see Emmanuel in every surprising way He comes to us ... and to grow closer to Him each and every day. That would make for the best Centennial Year any parish could ever have!

Chuck Dropiewski

Friar on Fire

I have been thinking about is the gift of time. I think it is the one gift that is given to us that we cannot buy more of, which makes it a pure gift for us. Some of us would like to wish for more time if you are spending quality time with another and others could wish for less time as one may look at the clock and wait until work is over. Have you ever thought about the gift of time and how precious it is?

I think we always say that time flies by and it passes us by. At the same time I think we are invited to take time to appreciate and be grateful for that precious gift. The gift of time allows us to create memories. It allows us to build relationships. Time allows a child to mature and grow and develop their skills, talents, and gifts. Time allows a married couple to find new ways of expressing their love for one another. Time allows an elderly couple to sit in silence and be thankful for each other. Time gives way for opportunity.

We are given so many opportunities to utilize the gift of time. As this New Year begins many of us are making new years resolutions and wanting to try to change our habits or ourselves. I think the New Year's resolution that could be life-giving for all of us is to not waste time. Let us all take every opportunity in our lives to utilize the time we have and appreciate its gift. Let us not waste our time but to take every opportunity this year and always in our lives and to do something with the time that is given to us. Let us not take it for granted and live life so precious as to savor every moment of our lives in our friendships, relationships our loved ones, and allow those moments to give us new life.

God's time is an infinite moment of showering all of creation with God's abundant Love and Mercy. The Love of Christ in this Christmas season helps us to continue to see that God doesn't waste time and sends us his Son Jesus to help us to take every opportunity in our lives to reach out to those that are in need and to live life in a way that doesn't waste a moment or any opportunity to love and out pour one's heart for others.

May we in this New Year be a time to cherish all that we have so that we may turn to our God and spend time giving God thanks and praise for the many blessings in our lives and never take what we have for granted. To start the New Year I just want to take the time to thank you all for your support, love, and prayers. I thank God everyday for the gift of the community at St. Ambrose as well as at the Solanus Casey Center. Happy New Year everyone!

Br. Tom

Religious Education Notes

As an old man was walking down the beach he noticed a young girl ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea. He asked her why she was doing this. The little girl explained that a starfish stranded on the beach when the tide went out would die if left in the morning sun. “But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish,” said the old man. “How can your efforts make any difference?”

The little girl looked down the stretch of beach at all of the stranded starfish and then stared at the one in her hand. As she pitched it back into the salt water waves, she answered, “It makes a difference to this one.” (from Q. Wesley Allen Jr., “A Sermon from Jan. 1989” in *Lectionary Homiletics* (3):17, Jan. 1992)

By the time Matthew wrote the story of the Magi, the community of Christians were, already – by and large – made up of Gentiles. After the temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. Judaism had begun to reject Jesus as the Messiah. In contrast, large numbers of Gentiles became believers in Christ. What had begun as a “Jewish cult” was fast becoming a Gentile Church. Drawing on the use of storytelling as a means to teach a great truth, Matthew (himself a Jew) shares with his Jewish audience the Good News of salvation that is for ALL people. Decades earlier – before Matthew wrote his Gospel – Paul’s letter to the Ephesians states, “It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel.”

Matthew had to take the chance that those remaining Jews who were still Christian would not leave because of their prejudice regarding Gentiles. He had to try to convey, to any of them who would listen, that the Church would be greater and stronger with everyone in it. Maybe it would only make a difference to one....

Epiphany means “manifestation”. At the beginning of this new (and some would say troubled) new year, let’s try and look for the many ways that God is made manifest to us. If it is true that “to love another person is to see the face of God” maybe we could focus on loving one another and embracing the differences in one another instead of the alternative. Perhaps the love and tolerance we show to others will make a difference – even if it to only one person. That is where we shall find God.

PLEASE NOTE: January is a busy month ... We are on the slow climb to Lent that begins early this year on February 10th. It may seem that we are packing more activity into a shorter amount of time – and we are! So, please be mindful of the following dates:

Sunday, January 3rd: Religious education classes are back in session today!

Friday, January 8th: Rehearsal for Confirmation is at 6:30 p.m. in the church.

Saturday, January 9th: Bishop Michael Byrnes will preside at the 4:00 p.m. Confirmation liturgy.

Monday, January 11th: The Parent/Candidate session for First Reconciliation is at 6:30 p.m. in the ARK

Sunday, January 24th: We celebrate the Rite of Enrollment for first communicants at the 11:15 Mass.

Wednesday, January 27th: The Parent/Candidate Session for Confirmation is at 7:00 p.m. in the ARK (for current 8th graders and their parents)

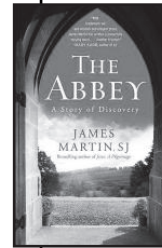
EPIPHANY KITS: Please take an Epiphany kit home with you this weekend so as to bless your home and all who enter into it. What a nice reminder it is to be aware of the blessing of having a safe place to rest our head each and every day. (And a car to drive, and clothes to wear, food to eat, etc... etc... etc...)

Betty

Vincentian Reflection

Today, we celebrate the feast of the Magi and their bringing gifts to the newborn king of gold, frankincense and myrrh. In the spirit of the Magi, please know that your gift to St. Vincent de Paul conference here at St. Ambrose brings hope and comfort and peace to those living in need among us.

Marcellina's Book Club



In his debut novel, *The Abbey: A Story of Discovery*, James Martin, SJ, provides a window into how God works in the spiritual journeys of three very different people. A divorced single mother, Anne struggles to make sense of her son's death; a former architect, Mark works as a handyman and wonders how his life got off track; Abbot Father Paul sometimes questions how to best live a life that secludes him from the world.

Through the characters' struggles, we see firsthand how God uses our worries, questions, and even anger to help us become whole.

Book club will meet Sunday morning on Sunday, January 17th 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 Dropriewski

Religious Education: Elizabeth Haley

Minister of Music: Marilyn Biery

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 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious
8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Tuesday, January 5

St. John Neumann, bishop
8:30 a.m. - Mass - Joan Convery,
Marilyn Lundy, Tom Boisture

Wednesday, January 6

St. Andre Bessette, religious
8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Thursday, January 7

St. Raymond Penafort, priest
8:30 a.m. - Mass - Robert Rownd

Friday, January 8

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Franklin McDonald,
Adeline Urbanski, Julia Kotula

Saturday, January 9

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

Sunday, January 10

The Baptism of Our Lord
8:30 a.m. - Mass - For All People
1:15 a.m. - Mass - For All People



Scriptures for the Week of Epiphany

Monday, January 4

- 1 Jn 3: 22-4: 6
- Ps 2: 1-2, 7-8, 10-13
- Mt: 4: 12-17, 23-25

Tuesday, January 5

- 1 Jn 4: 7-10
- Ps 72: 1-4, 7-8
- Mk 6: 34-44

Wednesday, January 6

- 1 Jn 4: 11-18
- Ps 72: 1-2, 14, 15bc, 17
- Mk 6: 45-52

Thursday, January 7

- 1 Jn 4: 19-5: 4
- Ps 72: 1-2, 14, 15bc, 17
- Lk 4: 14-22a

Friday, January 8

- 1 Jn 5: 5-13
- Ps 147: 12-15, 19-20
- Lk 5: 12-16

Saturday, January 9

- 1 Jn 5: 14-21
- Ps 149: 1-6a, 9b
- Jn 3: 22-30

Sunday, January 10

- Is 42: 1-4, 6-7
- Acts 10: 34-38
- Lk 3: 15-16, 21-22

The Baptism of Our Lord

January 9th and January 10th

4:00 p.m. - Saturday - Celebrant: Bp. Byrnes & Fr. Pelc

Lectors: Betty Haley, Laura Zajac, Erina Nazarko

Eucharistic Ministers: Patrick Bernas, Lupe Davila, Hichele Hodges, Patty Yaden, Anthony Yaden Altar Servers: Charlie & Eleanor Bernas; Effie Hodges; Susie Jarboe; Mateusz, Dominik, & Malvina Lubanski

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

Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Drummond, Judy & Bob Jogan, Joellyn Valgoi, Liz & John Witherell Altar Servers: Anna & Lauren Carron

11:15 a.m. - Sunday - Celebrants: Fr. Pelc Lector: Roger Playwin

Eucharistic Ministers: Maria Cox-Borkowski, Mary Ghesquiere, Jeri Krueger, Sue Playwin, Janis Ramsey, Cristina Swiatkowski

Altar Servers: Lizzie High, Grace Whitaker

Your Envelope Speaks . . . the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish requires a *minimum* of \$10,100.00
On Sunday, December 20, 2015

in envelopes we received \$7,031.00
in the loose collection \$797.00
in electronic donations \$1,200.00
in children's envelopes \$33.00
for a total of **\$9,061.00**

Under budget for the week **\$1,039.00**

Number of envelopes mailed 800

Number of envelopes used 152

Make New Year's Goals.

Dig within and discover what you would like to have happen in your life of faith. Commit to doing your fair share in parish support. It is an affirmation that you're interested in a living faith commitment. To give electronically, go to stambrosechurch.net

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, Maryjane Cullen, Karen Culver, Mary Pat Egan, Kathleen Elbersen, 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 and Angeline Boluk.

A Change of Time

Youth Ministry in the Archdiocese of Detroit is inviting young people to the 2016 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service which will take place at Detroit's Sacred Heart Parish at Eastern Market on Saturday, January 16th. The service day will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 2:45 p.m. with the play, "A Change of Time A Change of Mind."

Your gifts to the CSA make events like this possible, which keep our youth engaged and active in their faith. For information go to AOD.org.

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 scrip-

ture, 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 newly wed 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.

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 would like a deposit of \$800 per person. What a great gift this would make!

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

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and dangers in caring for the injured and sick, and in burying the dead. I would also mention those individuals and associations which assist migrants who cross deserts and seas in search of a better life. These efforts are spiritual and corporal works of mercy on which we will be judged at the end of our lives.

I think also of the journalists and photographers who shape public opinion on difficult situations which trouble our consciences, and all those devoted to the defence of human rights, especially the rights of ethnic and religious minorities, indigenous peoples, women and children, and the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters. Among them are also many priests and missionaries who, as good pastors, remain at the side of their flock and support them, heedless of danger and hardship, especially during armed conflicts.

How many families, amid occupational and social difficulties, make great sacrifices to provide their children with a "counter-cultural" education in the values of solidarity, compassion and fraternity! How many families open their hearts and homes to those in need, such as refugees and migrants! I wish to thank in a particular way all those individuals, families, parishes, religious communities, and monasteries who readily responded to my appeal to welcome a refugee family.

Finally, I would mention those young people who join in undertaking works of solidarity, and all those who generously help their neighbours in need in their cities and countries and elsewhere in the world. I thank and encourage everyone engaged in such efforts, which often pass unobserved. Their hunger and thirst for justice will be satisfied, their mercy will lead them to find mercy and, as peacemakers, they will be called children of God (cf. Mt 5:6-9).

I entrust these reflections, together with my best wishes for the New Year, to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother, who cares for the needs of our human family, that she may obtain from her Son Jesus, the Prince of Peace, the granting of our prayers and the blessing of our daily efforts for a fraternal and united world.

Franciscus