



ST. AMBROSE PARISH  
CENTENNIAL 1916-2016

*Beehive*

JANUARY 31, 2016

## *Setting the Table*

I cringe when a priest begins Mass by asking everyone to shake hands and introduce themselves to the folks around them. To me, there is something false and forced about that, a simulacrum of the friendly gesture it is intended to be. It's too little, too late. Parish hospitality must begin long before people are parked in their seats. It entails a lot more than ripping open a bag of Oreos and serving them with coffee after Mass.

I will never forget what I learned many years ago from a lay pastoral minister who was conducting a morning of reflection for women that began with breakfast. Although the group was rather small and the meeting took place in a cavernous parish hall, she took great care in setting the table. She lugged in her grandmother's china and silver, arranged fresh flowers, made use of beautiful stemware and table linens, all for a meal that was to last less than an hour. Yet, it set a tone for the whole morning. The women who attended not only felt welcomed but treasured. The way they were treated raised the level of reflection and discussion, and that meal became a turning point in the development of a women's parish discussion group.

It also made a lasting impression on this then-young cleric: It is in the details that true hospitality is established. In the gracious way the parish secretary answers the phone, never knowing whether it's a nervous bride-to-be or a grieving parent at the other end. In what the DRE says to the woman with three children who shows up six weeks late to register for Religious Education classes. In how the eucharistic ministers greet people at the church doors. In a parish hall that is warm in the winter and cool in the summer. In the volunteer meeting that ends in an hour, mindful

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## Setting the Table

*Continued from page 1.*

of people's valuable time. In asking same-sex couples to bring up the offertory gifts. In refusing to hector parishioners about the collection when Mass attendance is low due to bad weather or summer vacation. In taking the Oreos out of the bag and putting them on a nice plate. In offering current, quality, and free-for-the-taking reading materials to all parishioners. In having well-trained lectors and musicians at every weekend Mass.

Ecclesial hospitality is a natural outcome of the larger attitude of a faith community. Believing the Risen Christ is in its midst, a parish recognizes that presence in both visitors and neighbors. Guest and host each have an important part to play and something lovely and profound happens in the exchange. The subtleties and holiness of hospitality begin to emerge when we remember Abraham and his angelic visitors under the terebinth tree or Mary visiting Elizabeth or even the disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Of course, it's a constant challenge to translate these religious precepts into the habits of parish living. Creating an atmosphere of welcome and graciousness means first building an awareness of the value of such a climate and how it is an essential element in a vibrant parish. It also means encouraging a sense of the congregation's ownership of the parish. On my first visit to a nearby Reform synagogue, one of the religious education teachers gave me a tour. She asked if I would like to see the scrolls of sacred Scripture that are locked in the ark, the holiest place of this house of worship. With a great air of confidence, she obtained the key, opened the ark, and unrolled part of the Torah for me. It was a beautiful work of art, but even more impressive was the comfortable ease with which she did all this. Her self-assurance made this guy in a Roman collar feel like a warmly welcomed insider!

In my parish we don't have designated "ministers of hospitality." Everyone, from the staff on out, is responsible for extending that sort of Christian welcome. I admit that we are better at this on some days than on others, but it seems to be working. We do spend an awful lot of time washing real glasses after parish receptions and enrolling latecomers in First Communion classes, but I guess you could say we save a little time at the very beginning of Mass. There's no need for further introductions. Chances are very good that you already know who is sitting next to you.

*Reprinted from an article by Fr. Nonomen for the November 13<sup>th</sup> issue of Commonweal Magazine, [commonwealmagazine.org](http://commonwealmagazine.org).*



Because of an early Lent this year, our Valentine's Dinner, Dance & Auction will become a Mardi Gras Dinner, Dance & Auction which will held in the ARK next **Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>**. 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 gleaned 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!"

## 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

## Vincenian Reflection

In the Gospel today, Jesus shows us that we are called to place gospel values before all other values and to be willing to put our lives on the line for them. Taking care of God's needy is living gospel values. During the month of January, because of your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul here at St. Ambrose was able to assist families by providing food, help with utility bills and rent, clothes and beds. Thank You!

# All Things Considered

In 2016 Easter falls on the Fourth Sunday of March March 27<sup>th</sup>, which is relatively early in the year.

Easter is a moveable feast and is celebrated on the first Sunday after the first spring full moon. In 2016, the first full moon of Spring is March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

In Western Christianity (including Catholic and Protestant traditions) which uses the Gregorian calendar, the date of Easter varies between 22 March and 25 April. Eastern Christianity uses the Julian Calendar, and for this reason it celebrates Easter about two weeks later, varying between 4 April and 8 May on the Gregorian calendar. So while Easter this year is not the earliest it could be, it is certainly early!



This means that we are getting a jump start on Lent, which starts on February 10<sup>th</sup> this year. That also means that this year we're celebrating Mardi Gras early too!

*Mardi Gras*, from the French, literally means "Fat Tuesday." Its roots lie in the Christian calendar, as the "last hurrah" before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.

What is less known about Mardi Gras is its relation to the Christmas season, through the ordinary-time interlude known in many Catholic cultures as Carnival. (Ordinary time, in the Christian calendar, refers to the normal "ordering" of time outside of the Advent/Christmas or Lent/Easter seasons.)

Carnival comes from the Latin words *carne vale*, meaning "farewell to the flesh." Like many Catholic holidays and seasonal celebrations, it likely has its roots in pre-Christian traditions based on the seasons. Some believe the festival represented the few days added to the lunar calendar to make it coincide with the solar calen-

dar; since these days were outside the calendar, rules and customs were not obeyed. Others see it as a late-winter celebration designed to welcome the coming spring. As early as the middle of the second century, the Romans observed a Fast of 40 Days, which was preceded by a brief season of feasting, costumes and merrymaking.

So you see that Mardi Gras, or Carnival, seems wired into our cultural DNA. We all seem to have a need to have one last post-Christmas hurrah and then sober-up through the discipline of Lent.

If you are not going to one of the great Carnival cities such as Ven-

ice, Rio or New Orleans, then a perfectly good alternative is right here at St. Ambrose. Joining us at our Mardi Gras dinner/dance this coming Saturday – that is if there are still tickets left! Our 11:15 mass next Sunday will pick up the Mardi Gras theme as well. After Sunday's masses, we'll be celebrating in the ARK.

Traditionally here in the United States, Mardi Gras colors are – purple for justice, gold for power and green for faith. They also coincide with the liturgical colors of the seasonal shifts. The green of ordinary time moves into the purple of lent and leads to the gold of Easter!

TRP



## Candlemas

Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> is the feast of The Lord's Presentation. Catholics have been observing this festivity since at least the year 386 when, on that date, pilgrims to the Holy Land recorded their participation in candlelight processions, recalling the meeting that Simeon and Anna had with the infant Jesus, "the light of revelation".

Candles blessed on this feast are considered to be especially potent. For this reason, it's Catholic custom to offer Candlemas candles blessed on February 2<sup>nd</sup> to the faithful for use at home. We will have boxed sets of candles available for you on display at the front of church between now and Lent. We ask that you make a minimum donation of \$5 to cover their cost.

On Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, we use these newly blessed candles to honor 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 this Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, at noon and 7 p.m in the evening. Please join us.





**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 [StAmbroseBeeAtTheTee.com](http://StAmbroseBeeAtTheTee.com) 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](mailto:St.Ambrosegolf@gmail.com) for more information.

## Friar on Fire

Hospitality is how we can change the world! I think sometimes we forget the power of what it can do in our lives, our relationships and in the world. The power of hospitality allows invitations, a sense of welcome and gratitude to enter into the heart of one another. A Franciscan theme and value, it is one of the key aspects in the mission statement of the Capuchin Franciscans.

As I reflect back, hospitality is what captivated my heart and helped me search for my own discernment about becoming a friar. I didn't know if I would be accepted for who I am, my Vietnamese culture, my values and the age difference. But what helped take away those fears is how the other friars took the risk to be vulnerable and open up their hearts, their own cultures and share their values and their wisdom throughout all the years and their lives. The way we mutually shared our hearts and made ourselves vulnerable is how we opened hearts and became brothers. It was hospitality that opened doors to welcome one another as one.

I think though sometimes what can cause us to close our hearts of hospitality is when we want to be comfortable and not want to take the risk anymore to open our hearts. Our lives can slowly close up opportunities and possibilities where love can dwell. Taking each other for granted slowly seeps into our attitudes, actions and in all our relationships.

What can help us keep our hearts open with hospitable welcome? What can help us never take each other for granted? Working at the Solanus Center and at St. Ambrose exudes and permeates with abundant gratitude. I think gratitude is a key that helps keep the door of hospitality open. When we are grateful and appreciate the person before us and find something that we can thank God for ahead of time we then can welcome each other as sisters and brothers and know that we are a family in Christ.

The Gospel invites us today to truly open our hearts to know that Jesus is in our midst, life and relationships. We are invited to open the doors of our hearts rather than pushing and driving one another away from knowing how blessed we are to have each other. How do we look into the eyes of our own children and spouses to never take them for granted and welcome one another with the warmth of abundant love? How do we walk with others who are ill and appreciate the gift that we are not alone through our suffering pain? How do we live our lives in ways that open our hearts to become one with the Heart of God? May we keep our hearts open to the hospitality and graciousness of God and one another.

Please continue to pray for the young adult ministry, Tap Into Life. The next Tap into Life will take place at the Solanus Casey Center on Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> starting at 6 p.m. The topic will be on God's Abundant Mercy through the life of Solanus. If you know a young adult who is between the ages of 18-35, please invite them to open their hearts to this nourishment for the soul and know that they will be received into the warm friendship of God's abundant Love.

The Solanus Casey Center is going to be having a fundraising event. It's the only one for the year and I thought I would mention it because it is a wine tasting event! Please come to support us on March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please contact the Solanus Casey Center at 313-579-2100.

Also if you have anything that you could donate for the auction that will also be held during the event, that would be of great help as well. Please know of my gratitude and thanks for your love and support for the brothers and me. I am so grateful for your hospitable and welcoming hearts.

Br. Tom

## Religious Education Notes

Today's second reading from the 1<sup>st</sup> Letter of Paul to the Corinthians is most often heard at weddings. Paul describes what love is – patient and kind – and what love is not. The list for what love is not is much longer, but it accurately describes our mean-spiritedness in regard to one another. Jealousy, arrogance, self-centeredness, a quick temper, obsessing over the hurt someone has caused, or reveling at another's misfortune are, in fact, the opposite of love. St. Paul concludes that instead, [love] "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

This beautiful, instruction on love is bookmarked by two passages – one from Jeremiah and the other from Luke – that demonstrate the chaos and destruction that can take place when we act in ways that are not loving. Jeremiah believed he was called by God (formed in the womb and fashioned as by a potter working with clay) to bring his message of reform to the people – but he was reluctant to accept. Jeremiah knew the opposition he would face and the harsh reality of the loneliness of such a mission. In fact, the strong negative reaction to his continual call to the people to reform resulted in his murder.

Jesus faced a similar death when the crowd he is addressing in today's Gospel becomes a murderous mob that he manages to escape. His simple proclamation of mission – that the Lord sent him to "bring glad tidings to the poor and liberty to the captives" – makes them angry enough to kill him. Jesus' mission of love and mercy is met with contempt . . . and not for the last time. Continually, Jesus' word and mission that were centered on love would be met with opposition until his own eventual murder.

We know that it isn't always easy to act with love or even to feel love inside us for everyone. All we know is that the effort to do so is the most important thing. The refusal to love is the cause of so much unhappiness and death. The refrain we sang last week in the offertory song, "Christians, Let Us Love One Another" sums up our own mission (for which we were fashioned by God) so clearly. It says, "Everyone who loves is born of God. Jesus is our life. God is love." Let's keep trying and endure whatever comes....

### FIRST RECONCILIATION

Tomorrow night, the boys and girls who are preparing for their First Reconciliation will be gathering with their parents for a second preparation session in the Ark at 6:30 pm. In these two sessions we recall our Baptism as the time when we first experienced how God's love washes away sin – so that the sacrament of Reconciliation is seen as a renewal celebration of that divine love and forgiveness

We talk about conscience (a rather abstract concept) in concrete fashion as the voice of God that directs us in choosing what is good and loving. Sin, on the other hand, is the deliberate choice to act in ways that are unloving and self-serving. Tonight we will learn that reconciliation is a process of fully acknowledging that what we have done is wrong, doing whatever we can to repair the wrong, asking for forgiveness (saying we are sorry), and then celebrating the love and mercy of God in the sacrament.

Reconciliation is such a beautiful sacrament and integral to the life of the Christian community. It is my hope that we begin to celebrate it more fully and regularly if we have not been doing so. Lent is fast approaching. Perhaps it is a time to renew our own love of the Sacrament of Reconciliation that has so often been abandoned and discarded along the way.

See you at the Mardi Gras Auction!

Betty

## 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 Tornielli, 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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:** 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, February 1

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

### Tuesday, February 2

*The Presentation of the Lord*

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

### Wednesday, February 3

*St. Blaise, bishop & martyr*  
*St. Ansgar, bishop*

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Noon - Blessing of Throats

7:00 p.m. - Blessing of Throats

### Thursday, February 4

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

### Friday, February 5

*St. Agatha, virgin & martyr*

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

### Saturday, February 6

*St. Paul Miki and Companions, martyrs*

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

### Sunday, February 7

*Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

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

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



## Scriptures for the 4<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

### Monday, February 1

• 2 Sm 15: 13-14, 30; 16: 5-13

• Ps 3: 2-7

• Mk 5: 1-20

### Tuesday, February 2

• Mal 3: 1-4

• Heb 2: 14-18

• Lk 2: 11-40 or 2: 22-32

### Wednesday, February 3

• 2 Sm 24: 1, 9-17

• Ps 32: 1-2, 5-7

• Mk 6: 1-6

### Thursday, February 4

• 1 Kgs 2: 1-4, 10-12

• (Ps) 1 Chr 29: 10-11b

• Mk 6: 7-13

### Friday, February 5

• Sir 47: 2-11

• Ps 18: 31, 47, 50-51

• Mk 6: 14-29

### Saturday, February 6

• 1 Kgs 3: 4-13

• Ps 119: 9-14

• Mk 6: 30-34

### Sunday, February 7

• Is 6: 1-2a, 3-8

• 1 Cor 15: 1-11 or 15: 3-8, 11

• Lk 5: 1-11



Join us on Facebook  
[facebook.com/stambroseparish](http://facebook.com/stambroseparish)

## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 6<sup>th</sup> and February 7<sup>th</sup>

4:00 p.m. – Saturday – Celebrant: Fr. Pelc Lector: Bob Krueger

Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Bennert, Della Cimini,

Jeri Krueger, Mary Helen Quigg-Hillyer

Altar Servers: Jack & Patrick Hern

8:30 a.m. – Sunday – Celebrant: Fr. Bede Lector: Steve Peck

Eucharistic Ministers: Christopher Harrison, Joan Jackson,

Maggie Jackson, Chris Walsh, Liz & John Witherell

Altar Servers: Joseph & Nicholas Kurta

11:15 a.m. – Sunday - Celebrants: Fr. Pelc Lector: Kurt Vatalaro

Eucharistic Ministers: Lupe Davila, Mary Ghesquiere, Michele Hodges,

Janis Ramsey, Cristina Swiatkowski, Patty Yaden

Altar Servers: Lizzie High, Shea Vatalaro

## Your Envelope Speaks . . . the Inside Story

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

*On Sunday, January 24, 2016*

in envelopes we received ..... \$7,805.00

in the loose collection ..... \$508.00

in electronic donations ..... \$1,200.00

in children's envelopes ..... \$40.00

for a total of ..... **\$9,553.00**

Under budget for the week ..... **\$547.00**

Number of envelopes mailed ..... 800

Number of envelopes used ..... 152

### Invest in your spiritual gift(s)

*Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you. Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. (1 Timothy 4:14-15, NIV)*

## Our Sick

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

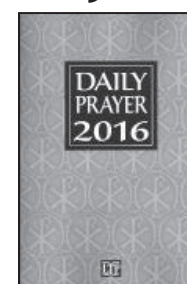
Kay Balas, Peyton Barron, Pat Blake, Laura Bush, Dominic Centorbi, Andrew Chavez, Maria Chinchilla, Karen Culver, Mary Pat Egan, Kathleen Elberson, Dan Fleming, Mary Ellen Greenup, Bernadette Gutowski, Angela Hansen, Elizabeth Howard, Ann Sullivan Kay, Donald & Marilyn Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Mary Myers, 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, and Dr. Arthur Stoyshin.

## Valentine's Lunch

Widowed men and women of all ages are invited to join us for a Valentine Lunch February 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm at Roger's Roost, 33626 Schoenherr in Sterling Heights. RSVP to Marilyn at (248) 543-1018.

Sponsored by Widowed Friends, a "peer" support group in the Archdiocese of Detroit. For further information about Widowed Friends, come visit our website at [widowedfriends.org](http://widowedfriends.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 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.





## 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 25<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 TODAY, the 31<sup>st</sup>.**

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](mailto:lisa@Travelworld.bz) or [pralko@hotmail.com](mailto:pralko@hotmail.com)

## 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](mailto:stambrose@comcast.net) or stop up in the loft before or after Sunday's masses.

## Catholic Singles Retreat

Many never-married, divorced, or widowed people in mid-life (mid-30s to 50s) feel alone, out-of-place (even in church), and wondering what this phase of life means for them. That's where the REFLECT Catholic Singles Retreat comes in.

Since 2004, weekend retreats have offered mid-life singles the chance to experience healing, a sense of belonging, and a renewed relationship with the Lord through planned talks, a reconciliation service, masses and fellowship.

The next retreat is set for the weekend of Feb 19-21, 2016 at the St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt, MI (10 miles north of Lansing). Call (989) 450-0993, or go to [ReflectRetreat.com](http://ReflectRetreat.com) to find out more about REFLECT.

## 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](http://stambrosechurch.net) for more information on electronic giving, or call our office for assistance.