

The “Year of Mercy” Begins

This past week, the Holy Father opened the Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica and the universal Church officially begins the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Non-Catholics – and some Catholics, too – might wonder how this ancient idea of a Jubilee Year remains relevant to our troubled times. They might wonder what Pope Francis is up to. They might well ask themselves: Isn’t every day for a Christian, let alone every year, supposed to be about mercy?

Alas, the need of the Church and the world for mercy could scarcely be more evident. To the question – why do we need a year for mercy? Everywhere we look, there is poverty and war and brokenness. The divisions within our societies have their counterparts within the Church. Original sin remains the one doctrine of the Church that requires no faith to be believed, as the evidence is all around us. If we are honest, sin is not merely “out there,” perpetrated by others, but inside our own lives and hearts. Yes, we need a Jubilee of Mercy.

The Catholic Church needs this year for its own reasons. The Holy Father, at his first Sunday address after his election in 2013, noted that he had read Cardinal Walter Kasper’s book [Mercy: The Essence of the Gospel and the Key to Christian Life](#) during the conclave. Pope Francis said the book did him “much good.” During all the controversies surrounding the twin synods on the family, the issue of mercy came to be viewed narrowly, in the context of how the Church ministers to those whose marriages fall short of the Christian ideal, but the thesis of Kasper’s book is more foundational. He argues that mercy has been “criminally neglected” by Catholic theology and that, whatever other benefits we have reaped from applying the concept of “Being” derived from Greek philosophy, the metaphysical understanding of God has been a pastoral “catastrophe” in our time. In earlier centuries, when the metaphysics of Aristotle were widely accepted, it may have been different. Today, most college graduates gain their diplomas without ever

having to read Aristotle or Plato. That may be a shame, or it may not, but it should not be the hinge upon which the proposal of the Christian faith succeeds or fails.

The Gospel readings we hear proclaimed at Mass on Sunday often relate Jesus acting in a merciful way to those whom He encounters. Jesus shows mercy to the woman caught in the act of adultery. He shows mercy to Matthew, an encounter that produced the Holy Father’s episcopal motto: *Miserando atque eligendo*. Jesus shows mercy to the good thief crucified alongside Him. Some of Jesus’ parables also call us to mercy, such as the parable of the Good Samaritan. We are called to follow Jesus, and His example of mercy, to be sure. But, the Year of Mercy is not primarily a call to an ethic, even an ethic of mercy. If we reduce mercy to an ethical proposition, a tendency to which we on the left are especially prone, we miss the point. The Jubilee Year of Mercy calls us to something deeper.



The God of the Bible is a God of mercy. Pagan philosophers could devise ethics and attribute to the gods they worshipped the attributes of justice. Many non-believers today have acute and deeply seated commitments to justice. But, we could only discover that God is merciful if He revealed Himself to be so. And, throughout both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament

that is how God reveals Himself. God’s mercy is what most defines Him, and what must, therefore, most define the Church that serves as His Body.

The parable of the Prodigal Son is not fundamentally about how we treat one another, but about how God treats us. The parable presents a radical vision and, in the past few years, those who have questioned Pope Francis, those who have belittled him, those who say he is confusing, all have behaved like no one so much as the Older Son in that parable.

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Year of Mercy Begins

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Kasper not only examines the many parables of mercy in the New Testament, he also rightly claims that God reveals Himself most especially as merciful in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus:

“With the idea of substitutionary atonement, it is not – as a prevalent misunderstanding suggests – a matter of a vengeful God needing a victim so that his wrath can be assuaged. On the contrary, by willing the death of his son on account of his mercy, God takes back his wrath and provides space for his mercy and thereby also for life. By taking our place in and through his son, he takes the life-destroying effects of sin upon himself in order to bestow upon us life anew. “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away: see everything has become new!” (2 Cor 5:17). It is not we who can reconcile God with us. He is the one who has reconciled himself with us (2 Cor 5:18).”

During the synods, and in the discussions before and after, many contrasted the doctrinal teaching of the Church about marriage with the pastoral need to show mercy. But, in the parable of the Prodigal and in the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, we see that mercy is not merely a pastoral method. It is itself a doctrine of the Church, indeed, it is the essence of what precedes and governs all the doctrines of the Church, the *kerygma*, the proclamation of the Gospel itself. We can and should act mercifully to one another, but not because this is more likely to stem the tide of those leaving the Church. We are called to mercy because we are called to know and to love the God who is Mercy. If we act without mercy to one another, we not only act badly, we act faithlessly.

Mercy cannot be left in the realm of the spiritual. It must become incarnate in our lives, individually and as a people. The initial biblical idea of Jubilee was that the debts of the poor would be forgiven, and the poor of the world still have need of a Jubilee. Debt-forgiveness is a palpable example of what it means to incarnate mercy. This is not a reduction of mercy to ethics but, instead, an instance of ethics flowing from our existential and doctrinal belief in mercy, and taking concrete form. (And, it should not surprise that this call for the incarnation of mercy comes in response to the cries of the poor! Theologians need to study the intimate link between mercy and the poor.) We who have experienced mercy know that we must be merciful ourselves. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy commend themselves to all Catholics during this year, not so that we will be good little boys and girls and earn our way to heaven, but because we know that to call ourselves Christians is to describe ourselves as bearers of mercy in a broken and sinful world.

No one needs to contemplate the need to place mercy in a central place in the life of the Church, just as it holds a pivotal place in the canon of Sacred Scripture,

more than the leaders of the Church. This is true especially here in the United States where the historic legacy of Jansenistic tendencies latent in Irish-American Catholicism remain astonishingly strong. A key to understanding Pope Francis is that he is an old Jesuit and old Jesuits confront Jansenists. In the first year of his papacy, Francis canonized St. Peter Faber, one of the first Jesuits, who wrote these words in his *Memoriale*:

“With great devotion and new depth of feeling, I also hoped and begged for this, that it finally be given to me to be the servant and minister of Christ the consoler, the minister of Christ the helper, the minister of Christ the redeemer, the minister of Christ the healer, the liberator, the enricher, the strengthener. Thus it would happen that even I might be able through him to help many – to console, liberate, and give them courage; to bring to them light not only for their spirit, but also (if one may presume in the Lord) for their bodies, and bring as well other helps to the soul and body of each and every one of my neighbors whomsoever.”

This is what mercy looks like in action: It consoles, it liberates, it gives courage, it brings light, it offers help. (And, its exercise will arouse Jansenists!) Mercy is more than an ethic, more than a dogma. Jesus Christ is mercy, the mercy of the Father incarnate in the world. Those who minister in His name must end the “criminal neglect” of mercy. And all of us who follow Him this year, and beyond, must walk with Pope Francis through that holy door, the door in our hearts and in our consciences.

By: Michael Sean Winters – Edited from his blog written for the National Catholic Reporter, December 7, 2015.



Honey from Our Hives

The “Fifth Vintage” of St. Ambrose honey is now processed and packaged. Because of Colony Collapse Disorder this past winter, in the spring of 2015 we replaced all of our hives. In harvesting this fall, we left a larger than usual amount of honey for our bees in an effort to give our bees their best potential for winter survival.

As a result, there is a *very limited* amount of honey that we can offer for sale this season. *The price is \$35 for a one-pound package.* Because of demand, quantities are limited to one container per person. This is a highly unique item – one that literally is a “taste of Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park” because, like vintage wine, honey takes on the characteristics of the area wherein it is produced.

St. Ambrose is the patron saint of bees, beekeepers, orators, song-writers and lawyers. That is anyone who has or seeks the gift of public speaking or singing. Is there someone you know in this list who would benefit from a gift of Ambrosian honey?

All our jars come attractively gift-boxed and bagged. Their sale began on St. Ambrose’s Feast Day, December 7th. Visit our office, or call (313) 822-2814

All Things Considered

Pope Francis opened the Jubilee Year last Tuesday. The motto for the Year is “Merciful Like the Father.”

Sometimes, when we think of the word “mercy,” we picture someone throwing themselves on their knees before a cruel villain – pleading to be spared some punishment. This is not our understanding of God’s mercy. We do not ask for God’s mercy because we are afraid of incurring his wrath as punishment for our sins. Rather, when we call on God to have mercy, we are calling on God in the only way we know him — as one who responds with compassion to those in need. When we show mercy to others, we are responding as God responds, with compassion. In order to make this Year of Mercy something authentic in your life and in the lives of your family, take a look at the resources prepared by the Jesuits at loyolapress.com/year-of-mercy.htm.

God’s mercy manifests itself in a dramatic way in the sacrament of Reconciliation (also called the Sacrament of Penance or Confession). The example of mercy that it demonstrates, tells us that God loves us – all of us – no matter how great our sins. He wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sin. A communal penance service in preparation for Christmas will be held this coming Saturday afternoon at 2:00.

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My thanks go to **Cardinal Maida** for being with us last week at the opening of our Centennial Year. My thanks also to **Fr. Bob Ruedisueli** the co-pastor of this parish from 1976 to 1980, who also joined us for the opening Mass. Go to our facebook page at facebook.com/stambroseparish to see some great photos of the event.

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During this holiday season – a season of generosity, I would like to offer you the opportunity to give St.

Ambrose Parish a special Christmas offering. This Christmas offering is intended for gifts above and beyond your regular giving.

Like other institutions that depend on free-will offerings, our Parish counts on a healthy expression of end-of-the-year generosity to pay our bills, make salaries, insurances and keep our doors open. As we come upon the last days of the calendar year, it means we are also coming up to the end of a fiscal tax period. So, it’s now time to review your tax strategy.

If you intend to make an end-of-the-year gift to the parish, to satisfy your IRS tax deduction for 2015, you’ll need to do it before January 1st. You can do this in the special Christmas envelope mailed in your monthly packet. Or you can get it to us marked somehow as “Christmas.” Gifts made in this manner are free from the usual Archdiocesan taxation of 7%.

This end-of-the year offering is what you choose to give *over and above* your regular weekly giving. A significant portion of our parish operating revenue comes from end-of-the-year contributions which can be in the form of cash, securities, stock, real estate and other negotiables. Consult your tax preparer who can guide you as to the best way of making a donation to St. Ambrose. Or, our own parish accountant can also be of assistance if you call the rectory.

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Are you looking for a special gift for that hard-to-buy-for loved one? St. Ambrose offers some limited items for your Christmas giving. These are exclusive to our parish and quantities are limited.

• **Buy-A-Brick** – Memorialize a loved one, or “carve in stone” an event with a personalized brick paver that will be installed in our memorial walkway. Pavers run between \$500 and \$1,000 depending on size. Here’s a gift that becomes a tangible part of Ambrosian history, viewed by generations to come.

• **Christmas Cherub** – A reproduction of a DePrato Cherub that donned the St. Ambrose Creche over

75 years ago. Each Cherub is a hand-painted resin casting by Ellison Studios, numbered and signed. Every one is a unique work of art at \$75 each.

• **St. Ambrose Honey** – from the beehives on St. Ambrose property this rich, pure honey is a treat for morning tea and toast. It’s a wonderful gift for any honey connoisseur. A limited quantity is available of our 2015 production at \$35 per-pound jar.

• **25th Oysterfest Revisited** – Send a memento from this year’s 25th Annual Oysterfest to a loved one out of town. Share memories of the best event in the Park! Purchase an Oysterfest T-shirt with either two (2) wine or two (2) beer glasses, boxed and ready for shipping. What a fun surprise for someone that couldn’t be here for the event at \$30 per set.

• **St. Ambrose Christmas Cards** – Set of 12 cards and envelopes with photos of St. Ambrose decorated for the holidays. Share a view of our beautiful church with friends and family along with your Christmas wishes at \$12 per set.

• **St. Ambrose 2016 Centennial Calendar** – Marking our 100th Anniversary, this calendar has “then and now” photos of events here at St. Ambrose. Great memories. Maybe you will see someone you know in the photos at \$5 each.

There are three easy ways to “shop” St. Ambrose: 1. Stop by the parish office, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cash, check or credit cards are accepted.

2. Call the parish office at (313) 822-2814 to place your order – it can be made available at Mass for your pick up. Credit cards may be taken over the phone. Or pay by cash or check after mass when picking up, or mail to the parish office.

3. Email your order to stambrose@comcast.net and let us know if you want to pick up at the rectory or after Mass. Please do not send credit card number by email.

All orders should be placed before December 21st. Call (313) 822-2814 with any questions.

Pregnancy Aid Giving Tree

For 22 Advent seasons now, we have erected a Pregnancy Aid Giving Tree in our church building as a demonstrative way of supporting our pro-life convictions. This Giving Tree outreach program benefits the local **Pregnancy Aid Society** at 17325 Mack, where women with unplanned pregnancies can find positive alternatives to abortion. Take a “snowflake” from the tree as a pledge – a reminder – and a gift tag – to bring back attached to a present for a newborn at one of our Christmas masses.

The Pregnancy Aid Society has a wish list which includes: baby clothing (0-12 mos.), sleepers, blankets, bibs, undershirts (one-piece snap-style), bath accessories, baby toiletries, diapers (size 1 and 2), strollers, breast-feeding accessories and informative books like: “You and Your Baby” or support items such as “Baby Einstein” DVDs, books and toys. “Pack ’n Plays,” along with Pack ’n Play-sized crib sheets, are also welcomed, as are all gently used baby furniture and car carriers. In short – things that are practical, educational and essential.

The major assimilation of these items takes place at our Christmas Eve Children’s liturgy, but early gifts can be brought in starting next weekend, December 19th and 20st, or to any of our Christmas masses. All items brought in become part of an inventory from which Pregnancy Aid draws all year long. There are few better ways to give a birthday present today to Jesus than through this Pregnancy Aid project.

Friar on Fire

December 8th marked the beginning of the Year of Mercy from our beloved Pope Francis. I have been reflecting quite a lot about mercy and how we experience it. Upon my reflection I notice that it was very difficult for me to find concrete examples and ways where mercy is found in everyday life.

I had a discussion with one of my brothers, Fr. Dan Crosby, who has done a lot of research and reflection on this topic. He says it is a language that we don’t use often in our culture, so it becomes a challenge to find examples of mercy. Yet it is something that we search and yearn for in our lives as we are called to find mercy and experience God’s mercy.

Even though it may be hard to find examples of mercy, I think we all do know and have heard of Mercy. Mercy is something that overflows our lives and it is something that is given in moments where we don’t even deserve it. The aspect of Mercy that strikes my heart is how mercy impacts our lives and hearts in ways that flood our lives with a torrent of love, forgiveness, and compassion.

Love, forgiveness, and compassion are all a part of God’s infinite Mercy. These aspects and experiences of Mercy are something that I think we can all relate to and understand. I think the question for all of us in this Year of Mercy is how we can find ways to flood our hearts and all our relationships with these aspects of Love, forgiveness, and compassion that lead us to Mercy. If we are willing to try to overflow our relationships with Mercy, we may begin to understand and develop a new understanding of what Mercy really is.

The key thing that we have to pay attention to so that we can grasp the new language of Mercy in our world is how we abundantly flood and give love, forgiveness, and compassion when others don’t deserve it. How do we abundantly bless beyond our imagination and all reasoning those people in our lives and in all of our relationships with actions and words that move our hearts that can take us by surprise? Mercy has that surprise dynamic that fills us with emotions that strive to make known that we are so important, valued, and unique so much so that our hearts yearn to fill another heart beyond its capacity with Mercy and Love.

The Gospel this week brings to light people that may ask questions like, “Why am I important?” “What value and worth do I have?” “Why would anyone want to love me?” We are invited to overflow our world with Mercy by the way we give from our hearts. We flood our world with Mercy by the way we give food to the needy at the soup kitchens or outreach to the poor, by the way we clothe the naked during the cold winter months, and by the way we forgive our spouse or children for the wrong that was done with new love that brings about new hope to marriage and family life. We fill the world with Mercy when we pray for and support one another in good times and in bad. May we abundantly fill our world with a love, compassion and forgiveness that is abundant and is beyond what we deserve so that we know of God’s Mercy.

GIVE A CHEER!

Instead of our regular monthly **Tap Into Life** meeting at Atwater, we’re planning a Pre-Christmas gathering next week in the ARK. I know there are many students coming back from college for the holiday and I am asking for your help in inviting them to the ARK on Sunday, December 20th at 6 p.m. where there will be food, dancing, fellowship, and other holiday activities. Our Young Adult Ministry is gaining traction and events like this will help broaden the outreach of St. Ambrose Parish. Spread the word about this Holiday **Give a Cheer Party**. Entrance (like grace) is free – it is a gift from the parishioners of St. Ambrose.

Br. Tom

The Buzz

Gaudete, everybody! Advent is more than half over. Rejoice. Let's make the most of these remaining (almost) two weeks before Christmas, but let's do it right ... *Omnia Christus Est Nobis* ... somehow recognizing and welcoming Jesus into the center of everything we do. Now that would make for the most fantastic Advent/Christmas ever!



Last Sunday we celebrated in a grand way the official start of our parish Centennial Year. This past Monday was the Feast Day of St. Ambrose, and on Tuesday we again celebrated the Holy Day of the Immaculate Conception, and the opening of the world-wide Jubilee Year of Mercy. What a great triduum of observances in our faith lives!

I was reflecting on the calendar dates of these three days and some other levels of meaning they can have for us. Sunday was December 6th, which in other years when it falls on a weekday, is the feast day of St. Nicholas. I couldn't help but think about gifts – both given and received – as individuals and as a parish over so many years.

And on Tuesday, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door to signal the start of the Jubilee year of Mercy. Francis chose the 50th anniversary of the close of Vatican II to say that the fresh air let into the Church by the Council should not be shut out in 2016.

I was immediately taken back to day three of our parish retreat last month. The theme was the mercy of God . . . but understood in new ways. If you were there, do you remember the different attitude we heard and celebrated in our reconciliation service? Mercy is not pity, nor is it primarily forgiveness for sinful transgressions. Rather, it is the over-arching will of God to love as a good parent does. God goes first. You don't earn it; you don't deserve it. All you're asked to do is say "yes" and let it in ... to completely transform you. Francis tells us to think first of mercy forgiving sins before we think of sins being punished by judgment. If we catch onto the difference, this coming Centennial and Jubilee Year will be truly joyous ... and different.



And if you think all of the above "religious stuff" is a lot of esoteric puff and not much connected to reality . . . how is God's life and mercy shaping your attitudes, judgments – your heart – in reaction to terrorism in Paris and San Bernadino? I don't know about you, but I really need some more Advent to work on this. The political rhetoric going on is not helping. It's why people of faith need each other in a supportive community now more than ever. I'm glad I have received the gift of being able to do this with you here at St. Ambrose. *Gaudete!*

Chuck Dropiewski

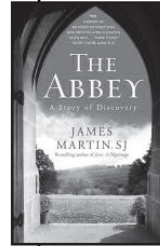
Religious Education Update

What would Christmas be without the angels and the shepherds? As the ancient story is proclaimed we know the first to hear the Good News of the birth of Christ were the shepherds who kept watch in the fields. The angels sing in heavenly chorus, "*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*" And so the story is told year after year on Christmas Eve.

We still need many angels and shepherds to round out our re-telling of Luke's Gospel at the Children's Christmas Eve Mass at 4 p.m. on December 24th. We need another centurion, or two too... Please give me a call at the Religious Ed Office at 313-822-1248 or send me a note if your children will be present at that Mass and wish to participate. As are all, these are non-speaking roles in our Gospel *tableau*. The one and only rehearsal will be after the 11:15 Mass on December 20th – for about an hour. I am hoping the parents whose children are in the Gospel re-enactment will be willing to help out with costuming and gentle direction.

Betty Haley

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 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 Dropiewski
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, December 14

St. John of the Cross, priest & doctor

11:00 a.m. - Funeral - Eugene Martin

Tuesday, December 15

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Robert Fuller

Wednesday, December 16

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Thursday, December 17

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Alan Ramberger

Friday, December 18

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Margaret Peterson
Michael Comerford, Eugene Niemiec

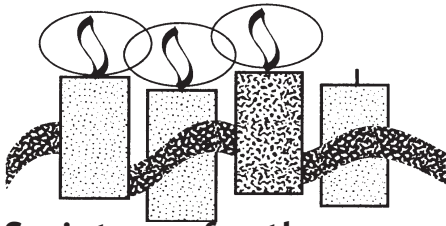
Saturday, December 19

2:00 p.m. - Communal Penance
4:00 p.m. - Mass - For All People

Sunday, December 20

Fourth Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m. - Mass - For All People
11:15 a.m. - Mass - For All People



Scriptures for the Third Week of Advent

Monday, December 14

- Nm 24: 2-7, 15-17a
- Ps 25: 4-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9
- Mt 21: 23-27

Tuesday, December 15

- Zep 3: 1-2, 9-13
- Ps 34: 2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23
- Mt 21: 28-32

Wednesday, December 16

- Is 45: 6b-8, 18, 21b-25
- Ps 85: 9ab, 10-14
- Lk 7: 18b-23

Thursday, December 17

- Gn 49: 2, 8-10
- Ps 72: 1-4b, 7-8, 17
- Mt 1: 1-17

Friday, December 18

- Jer 23: 5-8 • Ps 72: 1-2, 12-13, 18-19
- Mt 1: 18-25

Saturday, December 19

- Jgs 13: 2-7, 24-25a
- Ps 71: 3-4a, 5-6b, 16-17
- Lk 1: 15-25

Sunday, December 20

- Mi 5: 1-4a
- Heb 10: 10-5-10
- Lk 1: 39-45

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 19th and December 20th

4:00 p.m. – Saturday – Celebrant: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Pat Ticknor
Eucharistic Ministers: Beverly Bennert, Adam Borkowski, Della Cimini,
Maria Cox-Borkowski, Peter Hern, Mary Helen Quigg-Hillyer
Altar Servers: Sean Hall, Blake Hern

8:30 a.m. – Sunday – Celebrant: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Steve Peck
Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Drummond, Liz Linne, Joellyn Valgoi,
Chris Walsh, Liz & John Witherell

Altar Servers: Mateusz, Dominik, Agata, & Malvina Lubanski

11:15 a.m. – Sunday - Celebrant: Fr. Pelc **Lector:** Kurt Vatalaro
Eucharistic Ministers: Doris Fleming, Mary Ghesquiere, Sue & Roger Playwin,
Janis Ramsey, Cristina Swiatkowski
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, December 6, 2015

in envelopes we received \$9,699.00

in the loose collection \$648.00

in electronic donations \$1,200.00

in children's envelopes \$65.00

for a total of **\$11,612.00**

Over budget for the week \$1,512.00

Number of envelopes mailed 800

Number of envelopes used 190

*"Once you make a lot of money,
it's incredibly enjoyable to give it away.
It's a way to satisfy the soul."*

— Stanley Druckenmiller, hedge fund manager
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 Elberson, Dan Fleming, Mary Ellen Greenup, Angela Hansen, Elizabeth Howard, Bp. Joe Imesch, Bp. Alex Brunett, 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.

Our Dead

On Friday, December 4th a funeral liturgy was celebrated by Fr. Pelc, assisted by Deacon Nguyen, for **Ellen "Lennee" O'Brien**, age 68.

Lennee was born and raised in Detroit and later moved to the Grosse Pointe area to take care of her mother. She was employed by Talbot's in the Village and prior to that at First of America and City National banks. She was a lady of quiet, gracious dignity and was a great listener as well as a great storyteller. She enjoyed shopping and watching TV mysteries and comedies. Lennee became the family matriarch, watching over her many brothers and sisters, and custodian of family history.

Lennee was predeceased by her parents, William and Barbara and is survived by her siblings, Kathleen, John, Mike, Pat, Molly, Dennis, and James. She will be missed by her many nieces and nephews as well as the rest of her family and friends.

Pray Every Day

Could you be searching for a fresh new way to pray every day of the coming 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

The Christmas Season

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE
Saturday, December 19, 2015 AT 2:00 P.M.

VIGIL OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Thursday, December 24, 2015
CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT 4:00 P.M.

FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Friday, December 25, 2015
Concert at 11:30 p.m. Christmas Eve
MIDNIGHT MASS AT 12:00 A.M.
MASS OF CHRISTMAS DAY AT 8:30 A.M.
MASS OF CHRISTMAS DAY AT 11:15 A.M.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Saturday, December 26, 2015
MASS AT 4:00 P.M.
Sunday, December 27, 2015
MASSES AT 8:30 A.M. & 11:15 A.M.

NEW YEAR'S EVE & DAY

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God
Thursday, December 31, 2015
MASS AT 4:00 P.M.
Friday, January 1, 2016
MASS AT 10:00 A.M.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 2, 2016
MASS AT 4:00 P.M.
Sunday, January 3, 2016
MASSES AT 8:30 A.M. & 11:15 A.M.

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

Saturday, January 9, 2016
MASS AT 4:00 P.M. – Confirmation Liturgy
Sunday, January 10, 2016
MASSES AT 8:30 A.M. & 11:15 A.M.

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 by the 31st of December – although that deadline can be extended. What a great Christmas 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 in what is known as the fashion capital of Europe. If you want to discuss details with Lisa or Patti, you can contact them at lisa@Travelworld.bz or pralko@hotmail.com.

