

## Prayer in the facebook® Age

It is easy to overlook those moments in the Gospels when Jesus withdraws from others. They come across as pauses, a rest between miracles, parables, and edifying encounters. The work of Jesus's ministry takes place amid others, and the exchanges can be taxing. The souls he helps and tangles with make him weep and roar; he denounces, mourns, blesses, and heals. Disengagement allows for calm and quiet. Especially in Luke 4:42, his solitude marks a retreat from the madding crowd: "And when it was day, he departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him, that he should not depart from them." Here and elsewhere, the people press and beseech, and Jesus needs a respite.

But, of course, the isolation has a positive content. It's not about getting away from others, but about going toward something else. Jesus isn't alone. He's with the Father. Church worship is corporate prayer. But there must be times when a soul petitions the Father in solitude. Jesus's example shows the periodic necessity of making God your only companion. Too often the world draws you away from him, and so you must slough off your circumstances and address him by yourself, oriented toward nothing else, no outside distractions or commitments.

We are in danger of losing these relationships, corrective moments of solitary faith. Silence and seclusion are harder to find, and fewer people seek them out.

Social media is the culprit. Texting, selfies, updates, chats, snapchats, tweets, multiplayer games, blogs, wikis, and email enable people to gossip, boast, rant, strategize, self promote, share, collaborate, inform, emote, and otherwise connect with one another anywhere and all the time. The volume is astounding. Earlier this year, Facebook boasted 1.23 billion active users, while late last year Twitter's 200 million users sent 400 million tweets per day. According to

Nielsen Media, a teen with a mobile device sends or receives on average around 3,300 text messages per month, in addition to logging 650 minutes of phone calls.

Those habits, which researchers term "hypersociality," dominate leisure time. Data analyst Bill Tancer found in 2008 that social media had passed pornography as the most popular type of search. The whole range of fallen human motives passes through tools, but the prime one is, precisely, "I want not to be alone."

Some commentators highlight the narcissism and frivolousness, others emphasize the human communities social media creates and the revenue it generates for businesses. But the titans of social media understand quite well the social need behind it all. In his Time magazine profile of Mark Zuckerberg, Man of the Year for 2010, Lev Grossman stated the aims of Facebook:

"Facebook wants to populate the wilderness, tame the howling mob and turn the lonely, antisocial world of random chance into a friendly world, a serendipitous world. You'll be working and living inside a network of people, and you'll never have to be alone again."

Reid Hoffman, founder of LinkedIn, announced in a 2012 talk at MIT, "We're social animals. It's deep into our identity about how we discover meaning in life, what we think is important about what we do." In conversation Biz Stone, cofounder of Twitter, states bluntly, "The social will be the killer app of the twenty-first century." By this way of thinking, isolation is hurtful abandonment, quarantine, a denial of support. The astronomical success of their ventures suggests that many, many people experience solitude in just that way. When these Silicon Valley moguls explain their creations, they set money, power, and fame below the pledge to cure the human condition. They may be insincere, but their dosages of social media have proven spectacularly

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## Prayer in the Facebook Age

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irresistible.

Loneliness is everywhere. I see it in my students when I tell them to turn off the TV while studying and one blurts out, “I couldn’t do that – the silence would drive me crazy.” Or when you watch someone at the bus stop end one phone call and promptly dial up another one, and the words you hear have no urgency to them, proving that the only need lay in finding someone to talk to. Contact fends off the terrible feeling, the unease.

A voice, a photo, some words from someone, somewhere, hold it at bay. I may be only one of Britney Spear’s 37 million followers, but a short message makes her part of my life. I may be estranged from my job, but if my LinkedIn connections reach three figures, a richer future awaits.

The sad truth about all this has two parts. One, the friends and connections one forms, the attention one gathers through digital tools, fail to meet spiritual hunger. The universal hope that I-am-not –alone-and –unacknowledged needs stronger stuff. This is why the stunning geometrical growth in social-media volume has occurred. This and that connection aren’t enough, so you grasp more of them, more “Friends” and “People Talking About This.” A fresh “request” compliments you, but only briefly, so you yearn for more, as if a steady sequence of friends’ and strangers’ regard will expel your loneliness for good. Maintaining that network takes hard work, but the lure of recognition and the pain of forlornness provide enough excitement and desperation to keep it going, however vainly.

And two, most pitifully, it obscures the surest and permanent sources of comfort: God. People awash in social media can’t get past the paradox that the best salve for loneliness is properly applied alone. They look for answers in added connections, and more-emotional ones, but God isn’t a closer contact and better friend. He transcends the social, and you must seek him beyond the medium of “share” and “like.” In solitary prayer, the secular pleasures dissipate and the successes of social media melt into nothingness.

At the same time, the more you socialize, the less you allow Jesus into the wilds and prove the psalm’s promise, “The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer.” You build your life upon sand, and when the sand shifts, you add more sand ... and more ....

This may explain the findings of a recent study showing a correlation between Internet use and religious disaffiliation. Using data from the General Social Survey, computer scientist Allen Downey concluded that Internet use accounts for 20 percent (5.1 million people) of overall decreases in religious commitment since 1990. The science is fuzzier than Downey allows, but the trend matches our assumption that more social media means less prayer. People spend fewer minutes alone with God, and, more damaging, they acquire a sensibility less inclined to seek him out.

That disposition has hit most strongly among the young, the heaviest users. To reverse it, my advice to parents, ministers, and other mentors is not to speak to them of God’s greatness and love, not to assure them, “God is with you always and best felt in solitude.” Young people trust most the evidence of their own experience. So, give them a spiritual exercise to perform before each session of social media begins. When you buy your seventeen-year-old a new tool, hand your charge three psalms, or the Sermon on the Mount, or the Nicene Creed, and say, “Here is your gift, but you may have it on one condition. When you sit down in Starbucks, before you open the tablet, you must recite these words. When you walk home from school before you text your friends, you must recite these words. Say them slowly and mean them. It will only take a few minutes. I want your promise.”

Prayer must become a practice among our children, and if we can use the bait of social media to plant it into their daily affairs, then we may have faith that the call of God will, sometimes, entice them more than the news of their friends.

*Excerpted from the article “Prayer in the Facebook Age” by Mark Bauerlein for First Things magazine, December 2014*

## Climate Change: Our Call to Conversion



A four session process for faith communities

January 18<sup>th</sup> - Our Earth Community

January 25<sup>th</sup> - Science of Climate Change  
A Call to Change Course

February 1<sup>st</sup> - Ecological Conversion

February 8<sup>th</sup> - Eco-Imagining Our Future

Moderated by Sue Schrieber, OP and Julie Telang  
in the ARK at St. Ambrose in between Masses  
from 9:45 a.m. until 11 a.m.



# All Things Considered

February for Catholics means three things – Candlemas, the blessing of throats, and St. Valentine’s day. All three are steeped in legend and lore.

Before there was Groundhog day, there was Candlemas – the earliest harbinger of Spring – with blessed candles that helped ward off storms and evil lurking in the darkness.

In spite of all the advances of modern medicine, Catholics still line up in significant numbers every February 3<sup>rd</sup> to receive a blessing, also using these candles, for protection from ailments of the throat.

Even though St. Valentine lost his place on the Catholic calendar back in the 1970’s, that hardly has made a dent in his popularity, when February 14<sup>th</sup> rolls around and “valentines” are exchanged in record numbers.

February – what a great month to be a Catholic!

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This year is set to be a major milestone in humanity’s acceptance of our impacts on global warming as Pope Francis embarks on a mission to protect the planet. He stands ready to issue an encyclical acknowledging human-caused climate change, and the necessity for us to act to fight it because doing so is essential to our faith.

Pope Francis has already stated that the greatest “sin” is destroying God’s Creation, and humanity’s contributions to climate change are doing just that. Early last year, Pope Francis told a crowd in Rome, “If we destroy Creation, Creation will destroy us!”

Including today, two more sessions of our series on **Climate Change: Our Call to Conversion** still remain. You don’t need to have attended the previous sessions. So, if this series is just now coming to your attention, please drop in. The sessions

are held in the ARK in between our Sunday masses.

This workshop is a process which was produced by an intercommunity group of women religious in the United States, led by the Adrian Dominican Sisters. **Sue Schriber, O.P.**, a Dominican Associate, and **Julie Telang**, our former Adult Religious Education director, will be the co-presenters of this material here at St. Ambrose.

The purpose of these sessions is to gather for prayer, reflection, education, analysis, discussion and action in order to create a just and sustainable world future in the midst of our climate crisis. Our Holy Father wants Catholics to lend their voices and energies to this crisis. It would equip you for the task by attending the Adult Education program now in progress. Join us in the ARK from 9:45 until 11:00 this morning.

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Our February Valentine’s Day Dinner-Dance and Auction has become the social event of the winter, here at St. Ambrose. The way that the calendar works out puts the event on actual Valentine’s Day, which is February 14<sup>th</sup>, a Saturday this year. How perfect is that? You and your lover can pray at mass together at 4:00 and then come down to the ARK right after for cocktails, some auction bidding, followed by a wonderful dinner and dancing.

The date this year also falls on Mardi Gras weekend, and when it does, that gives our party a distinct New Orleans flair. *Laissez les bons temps rouler!*

We could probably get by with a lesser quality meal at this event, but that’s not what **Chef Fred Whaley** thinks. He is committed to giving everyone who comes to the dinner an exceptionally fine meal valued in excess of the admission price.

One of the more creative parts of this dinner is that desserts are “foraged.” That is, each table has as its centerpiece a unique cake. By picking up your dessert plate and checking out

the other tables, you will find yourself the exact dessert you want, and you will make a few new acquaintances in the process.

The financial backbone of the night is the auction. This again is in the capable hands of **Bob** and **Jan Ramsey** along with their auction crew.

It’s not too late to put up an item for sale. Obviously, higher end items bring better profits to the parish. So, think not only about the “stuff” you have and don’t utilize, but also things like vacation properties, services, tickets to events and sports memorabilia.

Our Valentine’s Day auction is not where your trash becomes someone else’s treasure. This is where your treasure become someone else’s and in the process becomes a treasure for our parish. Call someone on the auction committee for ways, times and places to drop off items. You’ll find that information on the next page. Tickets for the event are now on sale.

An Auction Preview and Pre-sale will be conducted in the ARK after masses next weekend. Come prepared to survey the merchandise, and maybe even take home an early-bird purchase before somebody else snaps it up.

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Our office staff has worked diligently in processing all the financial transactions that have come in at Christmastime and during Calendar Year 2014, so that you can have the documentation you need for the filing of your Income Taxes.

Our plan is that you should receive in the mail the necessary IRS paperwork you will require this week. Our envelope accounting and donation recording systems are pretty accurate, but given the multiple ways that contributions come to the parish, there may be an occasional tracking error. If after examining your 2014 contribution report you feel there may be an error or an omission, please inform us by calling 822-2814 or by sending email to [stambrose@comcast.net](mailto:stambrose@comcast.net).

TRP



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

Just how far off can Summer be? Make plans now to join in the inaugural St. Ambrose Parish golf outing on June 12, 2015 to benefit our Religious Education program and to support activities related to our centennial next year.

We're planning a great day of golf and socializing at the beautiful Chandler Park Golf Course ([americangolf.com](http://americangolf.com)).

The event includes a scramble format with four person teams, lunch and awards with a great dinner to conclude the day at the ARK at St. Ambrose. A person can register to play a round of golf and dinner, or just for dinner. All registrations will be taken on line through Golf Digest Magazine. As a bonus, all registrants will get a free year's subscription to Golf Digest. We'll publish the site address, once that is established.

Multiple sponsorships will be available in many different price ranges. Consider signing-up your business as one of the first supporters of our first golf outing.

## Dinner, Drinks & Dogma

St. Ambrose Parish along with Antonio's Restaurant in the Park is sponsoring a group venue for young adults 21 to 39 years old called: "Dinner, Drinks and Dogma". It's a chance to share our Catholic faith in a casual setting where the discussion can flow freely with "no holds barred". Gatherings are held monthly at Antonio's on the first Wednesday of the month. The format revolves around a 7 p.m. start when the group will gather in a private dining room for an interesting conversation about faith. Participants are welcome to arrive early or stay late for a dinner and/or drinks at Antonio's at their discretion.

**Our next gathering is this Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.** Share the invite with friends, neighbors, co-workers and acquaintances. Spread the word via social networks. You don't have to be a parishioner or even Catholic to attend. Announced age restrictions are very loosely enforced!



## Candlemas

Monday, 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 Tuesday, 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 on Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the morning mass at 8:30 a.m. and at a simple service at 7 p.m. in the evening. Please join us.

## The Buzz

It seems hard to believe, but it's the beginning of February and we're flipping to the second page of our 2015 calendar. How has the first 8% of your year been going?

Lent is about a half month away. Some of you may remember the Church calendar in the "old days" when the three Sundays before Ash Wednesday had special names. (Adults can ask me privately what today would have been called. I can't print it here where children or non-Latin speakers would read it.) The 40 days of coming penance was to be so special and intense that it took three weeks just to get ready for the six-week season that got us ready for Easter. Whew!

Today we continue Ordinary Time with a special emphasis on issues facing disciples of Christ – which should mean us. God's Word in the Liturgy confronts us with demons, miracles and prophets. Sounds more like stuff for a novel or one of those spooky, special effects, dark TV series. But here in the dead of winter, we're challenged in dramatic ways with the very real implications of what it means to be an ordinary follower of Jesus in 2015.

In Mark's Gospel, today's passage is Jesus' first miracle. His driving out a demon sets the theme of His whole mission: to rid the world of evil, and replace it with His teaching – the Good News – wholeness/holiness – eternal life. As one commentator put it, miracle stories in the Gospels aren't there so much to prove that Jesus is God, but more, what kind of God He is. And by extension, if we are in communion with Him, what kind of disciples are we to be!

So the challenge is – what miracle of driving out evil and replacing it with the authoritative power of Christ are you working on right now? Prophets provide us with a work list if we need one. But at the end of the day we should be able to say that there is less evil in the world we touched than when we started. Ever thought of yourself as a miracle worker? There is no more important miracle needed than to replace a demon with goodness, and there is no better time to start this vocation than today ... or to plan for how your Lent will get it going in just a few weeks.

\* \* \*

This week has two special religious celebrations on our Catholic calendar. (No, one of them is not praying for the Lions to be in the Super Bowl next season!) Tomorrow/Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, is the 40<sup>th</sup> day after Christmas. Since the year 386 Christians have marked the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple on this day with the use of candles. These recall the famous words of Simeon, who with the prophetess Anna, held Jesus in his arms and declared Him "a revealing light to the Gentiles, the glory of your people Israel."

It is customary to offer candles blessed on this day to the faithful for use at home. Boxed sets are available for you at the icon of Mary at the front of the church. We ask for a minimum donation of \$3.00 to cover our costs.

Then, Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, is the feastday of St. Blaise; and in accord with ancient custom we will use newly blessed candles to invoke the saint's intercession in protecting our health. This "Blessing of Throats" will be offered to individuals following the 8:30 morning mass that day ... and again at a simple service at 7:00 in the evening.

I trust our prayers on both these days will help encourage us to use many God-given talents and abilities to defeat demons of "darkness" and disease throughout the year.

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And two weeks from now, the weekend before Ash Wednesday, we revel in one of the high points of our parish's social life at the Valentine's Dinner-Dance-Auction on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. But sometimes, demons afflict formerly loving marriages. Perhaps you or someone you know needs a miracle healing. Disciples dedicated to this work have helped thousands through a program called Retrouvaille. Sessions are available in the dioceses of Detroit, Lansing, Grand Rapids, and even Windsor too. Call 800-470-2230 or go on-line at [retrouvaille.org](http://retrouvaille.org) for more information. It's always worth working for a miracle.

Chuck Dropiewski

## E-Donations

St. Ambrose Parish 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 St. Ambrose 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 response to St. Ambrose. A set electronic contribution also helps our parish maintain a steady revenue during months when many are traveling and away from the parish. Parishioners go on vacation. Our parish does not.

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

## The Beehive

The the parish weekly bulletin of the  
St. Ambrose Catholic Community  
Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

**Pastor:** Rev. Timothy R. Pelc

**Pastoral Minister:** Charles Dropiewski

**Religious Education:** Elizabeth Haley

**Minister of Music:** Marilyn Biery

**Office Manager:** Theresa Harthen

### 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](mailto:stambrose@comcast.net)

**Religious Education:** (313) 822-1248

**Ark Scheduling:** (313) 822-2814

**School Archives:** 313-237-5846

**Parish Website:** [stambrosechurch.net](http://stambrosechurch.net)



## Liturgy Schedule for the Coming Week

### Monday, February 2

*The Presentation of the Lord*

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

### Tuesday, February 3

*St. Blaise, bishop & martyr*

*St. Ansgar, bishop*

8:30 a.m. - Rev. Daniel McGrath

7:00 p.m. - Blessing of Throats

### Wednesday, February 4

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

### Thursday, February 5

*St. Agatha, virgin & martyr*

8:30 a.m. - Mass - John Loffredo

### Friday, February 6

*St. Paul Miki, martyr &*

*Companions, martyrs*

8:30 a.m. - George & Kathleen Schanz

### Saturday, February 7

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

### Sunday, February 8

*Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

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

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



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

## Scriptures for the Fifth Week of Ordinary Time

### Monday, February 2

- Mal 3: 1-4
- Heb 2: 14-18
- Lk 2: 22-40 or 2: 22-32

### Tuesday, February 3

- Heb 12: 1-4
- Ps 22: 26b-28, 30-32
- Mk 5: 21-43

### Wednesday, February 4

- Heb 12: 4-7, 11-15
- Ps 103: 1-2, 13-14, 17-18a
- Mk 6: 1-6

### Thursday, February 5

- Heb 12: 18-19, 21-24
- Ps 48: 2-4, 9-11
- Mk 6: 7-13

### Friday, February 6

- Heb 13: 1-8
- Ps 27: 1, 3, 5, 8b-9c
- Mk 6: 14-19

### Saturday, February 7

- Heb 13: 15-17, 20-21
- Ps 23: 1-6
- Mk 6: 30-34

### Sunday, February 8

- Jb 7: 1-4, 6-7
- 1 Cor 9: 16-129, 22-23
- Mk 1: 29-39

## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 7<sup>th</sup> and February 8<sup>th</sup>

4:00 p.m. – Saturday – Celebrant: Fr. Pelc Lector: Bruce Hartrick

Eucharistic Ministers: Beverly Bennert, Adam Borkowski, Della Cimini

Altar Servers: Frankie Pangborn, Julianna Tague

8:30 a.m. – Sunday – Celebrant: Fr. Bede Lector: Karlos Haynes

Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Gatzke, Christopher Harrison, Joan Jackson,  
Maggie Jackson, Joellyn Valgoi, Liz & John Witherell

Altar Servers: McKenna, Erica, Corey, & Carrigan McGraw

11:15 a.m. – Sunday – Celebrant: Fr. Pelc Lector: Roger Playwin

Eucharistic Ministers: Lupe Davila, Doris Fleming, Sue Playwin,  
Cristina Swiatkowski, Cynthia Warner, Patty Yaden, Anthony Yaden

Altar Servers: Anna & Susie Jarboe, Liam O'Byrne

## Your Envelope ... Speaks the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish

requires a *minimum* of ..... \$10,127.00

**On Sunday, January 25, 2015**

in envelopes we received .....\$7776.39

in the loose collection .....\$698.55

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

in children's envelopes.....\$46.50

for a total of .....\$ **9,721.44**

**Under budget for the week .....\$ 405.66**

FY 14-15 under budget ..... \$25,391.47

Number of envelopes mailed ..... 800

Number of envelopes used..... 183

*Please use your envelopes  
or contribute on-line regularly.*

*Thanks for all your prayers and support!*

## Our Sick

Please pray for our parishioners who are seriously ill or hospitalized: Roma Affelt, Kay Balas, Elizabeth Howard, Maria Chinchilla, Mary Ellen Greenup, Bonnie McKenna, Karen Culver, Joseph MacEachern, Mary Myers, David Schumacker, Mary Morreale, Bernice Phillips, Carter Billiu, Bob Ramsey, Dan Fleming, Fred Schroeder, Ann Sullivan Kay, Mary Pat Egan, Pat Blake, Dominic Centorbi, Charlene Lahey, Irene Scopel, Ray Oberly, Milton Aitchison, Donald & Marilyn Miriani, Kathleen Elberson, Felix Checki, Maureen Barron-Brioc, Ginger Weiksner, Laura Bush Terry, Fr. Phil Naessens, Lennie O'Brien, Maryjane Cullen, Bp. Joseph Imesch, Andrew Chavez, Angela Hansen, Roger TenHoopen, Barbara Mann, Elizabeth Robert and Bernadette Gutowski.

## Discernment Day

Is Jesus calling you or someone you know to become a priest? Consider attending the Day of Discernment with Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron. The Day of Discernment is for anyone aged 17 - 55 seeking a better understanding of their vocation from the Lord.

It takes place on February 21<sup>st</sup> at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. Visit [detroitpriest.com](http://detroitpriest.com). Follow us on Facebook and Twitter at Detroit Priest.

## Pray Every Day

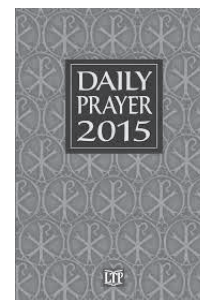
Could you be searching for a fresh way to pray every day of the year?

Daily Prayer 2015 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 makes an excellent gift for a senior 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 2015, stop in the back of church or call the rectory office at 822-2814.





Name

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Home Phone

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Work Phone

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Email Address

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- 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.

## Valentine's Dinner Dance

We're celebrating St. Valentine's Day on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, with dinner and dancing in the ARK. The event will once again feature a silent auction.

The party begins after the 4 p.m. mass with hors d'oeuvres and a chance to review and bid on some wonderful auction items. Dinner service begins at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 per person with a cash bar. Seating is limited. Tickets are available through the rectory. Last year's event sold out, so please plan accordingly. Treat yourself to a gala evening with people you know and love.

## Stuff for Your Sweetie

Our Valentine's Dinner, Dance & Auction in the ARK will be held on **Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>**. Singles, couples, friends, lovers ... everyone is welcome! Building on its popularity, we will once again include a fabulous silent auction with a variety of gifts and services. Proceeds will go completely to the current operations budget of St. Ambrose. Individual ticket sales (sorry, no group reservations) will begin next weekend at mass and through our office during the week.

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

Here are some of the auction items we have so far: a beer stein collection, a mink jacket, three Norman Rockwell art collections, a good selection of Red Wing hockey memorabilia, an Easter basket with specialty eggs, a vintage Hall teapot collection, a designer purse, an antique jet necklace, a bird lover basket, a spa basket, a chocolate and champagne basket, a leaded nativity window, several earthenware kitchen containers, a Gund animal collection, a Barbie collection, Detroit Symphony tickets, a vintage locker door from the old St. Ambrose gym, a 1947 and '57 varsity Cavalier sports jacket and two sweaters, two neon sculptures and many more items to come!

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. To make a donation, or with questions, also call Bob or Jan at (313) 885-4784. But, to secure tickets to the event, contact Mary Urbanski at the rectory office (313) 822-2814.