



ST. AMBROSE PARISH
CENTENNIAL 1916-2016

Beehive

FEBRUARY 21, 2016

Reaching for the 'More' of Life

Each Lent we have the opportunity to examine our lives, to explore whether our inner lights burn brightly or have become ash-covered embers. In this season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we turn to each practice to discover what in us might be discarded in order to draw us more closely into the sacrifice of Christ. As we engage in practices of penance, we hope for healing and growth in what is good and purposeful in how we serve one another. As Sister Joan Chittister reflects, Lent challenges each of us to *“decide whether I, myself, do truly believe that Jesus is the Christ – and if I believe, whether I will live accordingly when I can no longer hear the song of angels in my life and the star of Bethlehem has grown dim for me.”* (*The Liturgical Year: The Spiraling Adventure of the Spiritual Life*, 111).

Although Lent is rich with imagery and the rituals of the season provide an abundant foundation for prayer and reflections, we must reach beyond these to enter fully into this time of sacrifice and salvation. Lent is a time to strip away the distractions and excesses of life so that we may be able to experience the emptiness of the tomb and pass through it filled with faith and the joy of new life.

Lent is a call to remember who we are and where we have come from and why. *“The voice of Lent is the cry to become new again, to live on newly no matter what our life has been like until now and to live fully. It is even more that that. It is the promise of mercy, the guarantee of new life. It is the resin that keeps our souls melded to the Spirit within us despite the pull of chaos and waste and superficialities on our spiritual moorings. Lent is our salvation from the depths of nothingness. It is our guide to the more of life.”* (Chittister 121-122)

Sacrifice as Example

As we struggle toward that “more of life,” we must connect fully with a world often lost in lifelessness. Pope Francis reminds us that the sacrifice of the cross draws us into the joys and sorrows of all:

“Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross is nothing else than the culmination of the way he lived his entire life. Moved by his example, we want to enter fully into the fabric of society, sharing the lives of all, listening to their concerns, helping them materially and spiritually in their needs, rejoicing with those who rejoice, weeping with those who weep; arm in arm with others, we are committed to building a new world. But we do so not from a sense of obligation, not as a burdensome duty, but as the result of a personal decision which brings us to joy and gives meaning to our lives.” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 269).

When we decide to go beyond the familiarity of our soup suppers and rice bowls (though worthy practices!) to be physically present with those in need, we

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The 'More' of Life

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come closer to the sacrifice of the cross. We become humble and vulnerable. We learn courage by immersing ourselves in the burdens and afflictions of those who struggle. Faith and hope grow stronger when shared in adversity. This season can transform us when we embrace sacrifice. *“Lent is the period in which, learning to abstain from adoring at the shrine of the self, we come to see beyond the divinity we have made of ourselves to the divine will for all the world”* (Chittister, 113).

Faith From the Inside Out

We are better able to experience the “more” of life when we let go of nonessentials. As we focus on simple prayer, fast from distractions and temptations, and give to others of ourselves, the Holy Spirit has room to breathe in us. *“Lent enables us to face ourselves, to see the weak places, to touch the wounds in our own soul and to determine to try once more to live beyond our lowest aspirations”* (Chittister 112-113). This is an opportunity to take the gifts we receive from liturgy and service and weave them into the spiritual life in a deliberate way. Lent is a time to build on all that has come before in order to focus on the journey to come.

Lent is not a ritual. It is time given to think seriously about who Jesus is for us, to renew our faith from the inside out. It is the moment when, as the baptismal waters flow on every Easter Vigil altar, we return to the baptismal font of the heart to say yes once more to the call of Jesus to the disciples, “Come and see” (*John 1: 39*).

By Donna M. Cole, from the December 2015 and final issue of Ministry and Liturgy Magazine.



Simply and directly, Pope Francis has given us a personal dialogue on the subject that is closest to his heart – mercy – which has long been the cornerstone of his faith, and is now the central teaching of his papacy.

Join us this Sunday morning, February 21st at 9:45 until 11 in the ARK at St. Ambrose as Bishop Thomas Gumbleton leads us in a reflection on the Holy Father’s new book The Name of God is Mercy.

Bishop Thomas Gumbleton’s talk will be based on the Holy Father’s vision of the Church as expressed in a series of conversations given to Vatican reporter Andrea Tornielli. In a series of interviews, Francis explains his reasons for proclaiming a Holy Year of Mercy. He reiterates that the Church cannot close the door on anyone – that, on the contrary, its duty is to find its way into the consciousness of people so that they can assume responsibility for, and move away from, the bad things they have done.

Bishop Gumbleton’s reflection on the Pope’s book is open to all interested. There are no fees, and registration is not necessary. Pope Francis’ book The Name of God Is Mercy is published by Random House and is also available from Random House Audio and in a Random House large print edition. Check with your local or online book seller.

All Things Considered

When the Holy Father's book, The Name of God Is Mercy, came out in January, I knew that I wanted to use it as part of our focus this Lent. Short of Pope Francis himself, I could think of no one else to help us interpret and understand this book other than **Bishop Thomas Gumbleton**. Bishop Tom has a long and storied history of standing up for the underdog and calling great institutions to conscience. If anyone could get inside the head of Pope Francis' ideal of God's boundless mercy, he could.

I was pleased, therefore, when he accepted my invitation to be with us this Sunday in-between masses to conduct Marcellina's Book Club.

Bishop Tom writes a weekly column called "The Peace Pulpit" for the National Catholic Reporter. In April of 2013 he wrote this about one of the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus and the miraculous draught of fish as recorded in John: Chapter 21.

"You draw in everybody. No limits. Not exclusive. This is a community where everybody is welcome and is invited to become a member. That's the sign that Jesus was giving in this episode recorded in the Gospel of St. John.

It's something we need to remember, that we're not to push people away from the Church. We're supposed to draw them in. We want everyone to be part of this community of the disciples of Jesus.

Everyone is welcome, including sinners, of course. Peter and the other disciples had all fled and abandoned Jesus, betrayed him, denied him, but they're welcome at the Eucharistic feast — that's obviously when Jesus is breaking bread for the disciples — that's the sign of the Eucharist. So they're gathered there around that fire on the beach, celebrating the Eucharist, and again, nobody is told,

'Stay away.' Everyone is invited: participate!

That's the kind of Church we need. That's the kind of Church we have to be working toward becoming part of — following that leadership of love, not a leadership of power and authority and penances and penalties and exclusions and so on, but a leadership that says 'love.'

When we become that kind of a Church, from the Pope down through the whole community, then that's when we'll be a sign to the world that will draw it to enter into the reign of God and bring fullness of God's reign into reality — a reign of love, a reign that will be peace and justice for all.

Come, hear Bishop Gumbleton today. Spend some time this Lent reflecting on the Pope's words in The Name of God Is Mercy.

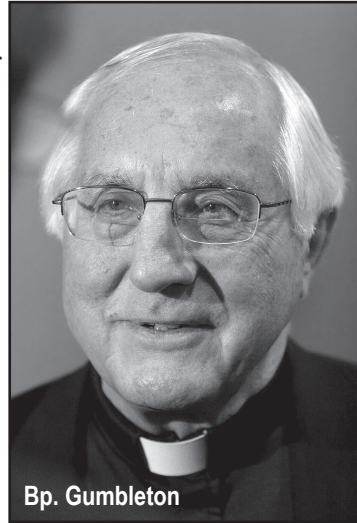


Catholics are not supposed to eat meat on Fridays during Lent. We view it as a small act of penance to honor Christ's death.

When we opened the ARK in 2003, one of the activities we inaugurated were Lenten Dinners. At the time, this was considered a "low-brow," "blue-collar" idea — an "antiquated custom whose time had past." But we since learned that we were on the leading edge of the resurgence of a custom whose popularity has surged. There are even Catholic Clubs that travel to different Lenten dinners every week.

Today Lenten Church Dinners abound. Other parishes in the area have come to us asking how to start fish fries of their own. We've shared our chef with them on occasion.

Churches are now hosting Lenten dinners, not necessarily for revenue, but for a whole host of other intangible benefits.



Bp. Gumbleton

I recently read an article which quoted **Michael Murphy**, director of Catholic Studies at Loyola University Chicago. He was commenting on how Lenten Dinners were once popular in the middle of the last century. *"Back then, tight neighborhood structures made the local parish a central part of life — resulting in women's and men's clubs and many other events. The parish was for so many years the place to be,"* he said, adding *"parishes served as a prime social outlet."*

Murphy said Fish Fries merged theological teachings and practicality. If Catholics could not eat meat on Fridays, they might as well have fish and get together for solidarity. He added that the need to gather is central to the philosophy of our faith.

Murphy noted that these dinners waned in popularity after *"older parish structures broke down following Vatican II, combined with the loosening of social structures in the U.S. in the 1960's and 1970's."*

But he sees them coming back in style over the past few decades. And we can testify to that here at St. Ambrose. Maybe it's partly due to the 'Pope Francis effect,' which has Catholics responding to the basics of an inclusive, joy-filled Church again.

So Lenten Dinners are not just to come to eat fish, but also to build bonds of neighborhood and friendship. Our hope is to attract more people into our community not only from within the parish but from outside the larger neighborhood as well. Sharing food and drink in a hospitable atmosphere is one of the time-tested ways of doing that.

Our world is hungry for community — for getting out of our houses and having a place to safely go where it feels good to be with each other. In a world that is increasingly isolated, it's

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All Things Considered

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perhaps more important than ever that we share ourselves with one another over these Lenten meals. That is why it is important to involve our young people as volunteers to keep them in the parish and in the faith. Our Confirmation students have been excellent ambassadors for the community. The mix of generations at our Lenten dinners makes everyone smile. This is us at our best!

So it seems that everything old is new again. Without exaggeration, our Lenten dinners are an enjoyable way of reinventing our faith, our parish, and our neighborhood.

Invite someone you work with, or a neighbor, or classmate to join you for one of our dinners. And, while you are nourishing your body, consider nourishing your soul too. Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament are celebrated at 7:00 right in the middle of dinner.

We depend on lots of volunteer labor to feed the crowd. If you can help, let us know by contacting our volunteer coordinator, **Mary Oberly** at moberly007@comcast.net or call us at 313-822-2814.

TRP

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 and that parish some direct assistance with bottled water, as well as water (and shower) filtration systems. Guadalupe parish also needs other items such as personal hygiene kits, medical and baby supplies.

Leave your donations in the church vestibule or call our office to make arrangements for a drop-off. Thanks!

TRP

Friar on Fire

As I write this column for this week I am meeting with my Provincial and the Provincial Council for my formal interview for ordination. I think it may be the last formal meeting that I have with the Provincial and the Council before my ordination on April 30th. I can't believe how fast time has flown by and at the same time how fast my ordination day will come.

Reflecting back on the experience at St. Ambrose and the Solanus Casey Center, I know I have truly been blessed and graced by God and by the people of God. I preach a lot about the Spirit of Adventure to young adults and I am always finding myself being amazed on the adventure of a lifetime being shaped and formed as an ordained Capuchin Franciscan minister in the Church and the world.

As I go into this final meeting, the Council and the Provincial will be voting if I can be accepted as a candidate for ordination to the Presbyterate as a priest. I have been asked to think and reflect on my experience of diaconate and speak on some of the feedback I have received from the people I minister with and to and to possibly dream and think of what are my hopes for the future in my own ministry as a priest.

My experience as a deacon has just been a surge of zeal and energy that the Spirit of Adventure has taken me on. I have learned about areas where I need to grow and also what gifts and strengths I have. One thing that I do know and have learned is how my heart yearns to reach out and to love the people of God, especially all the wonderful people at St. Ambrose and at the Solanus Casey Center. I have a very warm place in my heart and I am just filled with so much gratitude for this wonderful experience and for great mentors like Fr. Tim, the staff and the parish community here.

If you are able to, I would love to have you attend my ordination on Saturday, April 30th starting at 10 a.m. It will be at St. Lawrence Seminary High School, my Alma Mater, located in Mount Calvary, Wisconsin. Please let the parish office know if you will be able to attend as they require a head count to make proper arrangements. If you cannot come to Wisconsin, please know that I will be celebrating a Mass of Thanksgiving here on Saturday, May 14th at 4 p.m. as well as one at the Solanus Casey Center on Sunday, May 15th at 9 a.m. that I hope that you will be able to attend. I continue to ask for your prayers in this process of ordination and that the Spirit will continue to use me as an instrument of God's Love.

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 tonight starting at 6:00 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 warmth and friendship of God's abundant love.

Br. Tom

Lenten Prayer at St. Ambrose

On the Thursdays of Lent, our morning Mass shifts to a 7:00 evening time slot in order to give more people an opportunity to attend the liturgy during the weekdays of Lent – leading up to Holy Thursday.

Preceding Thursday night Masses (at 6:00pm), as well as preceding Saturday afternoon Masses (at 2:30pm) confessions will be heard. Note that the priest remains in the confessional only as long as there are penitents present.

Our plans for Lent once again include Friday night Stations of the Cross and our popular Fish Dinners. Come for an early dinner and stay for Stations of the Cross. Or, come to Stations of the Cross and then enjoy a later dinner. Grace and Mercy abound!

The Buzz

How is your Lent going so far? It's still early in the season, so if you haven't started to get into the spirit of Lenten practice yet, there is still time. Today's Gospel from the Liturgy is a great one to use as a starting point. The transfiguration of Jesus has a lot to do with having a vision. It is not only a vision of Jesus, but also an invitation to what we are supposed to become. If you don't see this at first, don't worry. You're in good company; Peter didn't catch on at first either. All we have to do is what the voice from the cloud instructed the disciples to do – Listen to Jesus. That means prayer . . . and fasting . . . and works of loving charity. That is the true meaning of Lent. It's not too late to get into it. May yours truly transfigure you.



This past week, **Patrick O'Hara** along with **Clarisa and Kevin Piecuch** from our parish attended training sessions put on by the Archdiocese of Detroit for facilitators of Parish Dialogue Gatherings leading up to Synod-16. Almost a year ago, **Archbishop Allen Vigneron** announced that this Synod would take place in the fall of 2016. It is to be a gathering of hundreds of clergy and laity who will focus on how God wants the local Church to be a band of joyful missionary disciples who transform (transfigure?!) our culture by communicating the goodness and love of Jesus. Nice words. But how do we bring this about?

The Parish Dialogue Gatherings, which are to take place from March through June, are intended to surface the most important issues which the People of God envision as connected to this goal. Through prayer and group deliberation, parishioners will speak from their experiences and give suggestions about — encountering Jesus — growing as His disciples — giving witness to the power of His mercy. This input will then be carried by our parish representative to the major gathering in November.

Very soon, the newly trained facilitators from St. Ambrose will digest the information received this past week and try to put it into a reasonable format for our parish-based participation over the next few months. Stay tuned.



I'm hoping you all take advantage of the opportunity to hear **Bishop Gumbleton** this morning at the special Marcellina's Book Club presentation. The focus was to be on the new book of Pope Francis – *The Name of God Is Mercy*. In light of the above-mentioned efforts involved in Synod-16, which is highlighting the "New Evangelization", I am more and more convinced that the best evangelization is not *new*, nor is it *liberal* or *conservative*. It is in fact living the meaning of what the book title says. It must be bold, merciful, unafraid, and full of hope. (Have you been tuned in to the spirit of the papal visit and messages in Mexico?) Now if our parish Dialogue Gatherings can give vision and form to what we individuals and this parish community, in communion with Jesus, should do **to be God's mercy** in our time and place . . . now there would be a worthwhile Synod on Evangelization!

Chuck Dropiewski

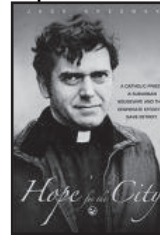
Religious Education Update

Joan Pfaendtner-Jackson has asked me to publish some information for parents of teenagers. On Wednesday, February 24th there will be a free screening of the movie, *The High Cost of Free Love*. This movie explains the consequences of sex outside of marriage in a delivery that is straightforward but not heavy. The author and lecturer, Pam Stenzel, delivers the material in a sometimes humorous but always truthful manner. The good news is that sex is a gift from God – so it is good. Pam shares the teaching of the Church when she reminds them that this great gift from God is to be treasured within the confines of marriage.

The High Cost of Free Love is the first of a four-part series. It is material that every teenager deserves to know. The showing is to be held at the Okulski Family Theatre at Windmill Pointe Park. For information contact Joan at joan263@att.net

Betty

Marcellina's Book Club



In his book *Hope for the City*, author Jack Kresnak tells the story of Father Bill Cunningham, Eleanor Josaitis and others who were drawn to the mission of Focus Hope.

This is a captivating story of a seminary English teacher who rode a Harley-Davidson and marched with Dr. King across the Edmund Pettus bridge. It's the story of a suburban mother of five who organized marriage enrichment events before she persuaded her husband to move back into Detroit. It's also the story of the 1967 riot that exposed systemic racial inequality and the civil rights organization that evolved.

Our book club will meet with the author, Mr. Kresnak, on Sunday morning, April 17th from 9:45-11:00 in the ARK.

The Beehive

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

Pastor: Rev. Timothy R. Pelc
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Thomas Nguyen, ofm, cap
Pastoral Minister: Charles Dropiewski
Religious Education: Elizabeth Haley
Minister of Music: Norah Duncan, IV
Office Manager: Lois Sokolowski

Sacramental Celebrations

Masses: On the Lord's Day –

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.

Baptism: Arrangements for both adults and infants to be made by contacting the rectory.

Penance: As announced and by appointment.

Marriage: Couples should contact the rectory office a minimum of six months in advance of the proposed date to make arrangements.

Funeral: Normally celebrated within one week after the deceased's passing.

Directory

Parish Office: 15020 Hampton

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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 22

The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Tuesday, February 23

St. Polycarp, bishop & martyr

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Bernice Phillips,
James McKenna, Attilio & Zaira Maio

Wednesday, February 24

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Thursday, February 25

7:00 p.m. - Ray & Rosanna Tessmer,
Sandra Gentile, David White

Friday, February 26

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Walter Borowski,
Sallie Godlewski. Al & Geri Falkiewicz
7:00 p.m. - Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 27

1:30 p.m. - Wedding -
Beth Paul & Andrew Pickard
4:00 p.m. - Mass - For All the People

Sunday, February 28

Third Sunday in Lent

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



Scriptures for the 2nd Week in Lent

Monday, February 22

- 2 Pt 5: 1-4
- Ps 23: 1-3a, 4-6
- Mt 16: 13-19

Tuesday, February 23

- Is 1: 10, 16-20
- Ps 50: 8-9, 16b-17, 21, 23
- Mt 23: 1-12

Wednesday, February 24

- Jer 18: 18-20
- Ps 31: 5-6, 14-16
- Mt 20: 17-28

Thursday, February 25

- Jer 17: 5-10
- Ps 1: 1-4, 6
- Lk 16: 19-31

Friday, February 26

- Gn 37: 3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a
- Ps 105: 15-21
- Mt 21: 33-43, 45-46

Saturday, February 27

- Mi 7: 14-15, 18-20
- Ps 103: 1-4, 9-12
- Mt 5: 43-48

Sunday, February 28

- Ex 3: 1-8a, 13-15
- 1 Cor 10: 1-6, 10-12
- Lk 13: 1-9

Third Sunday in Lent February 27th and February 28th

4:00 p.m. - Saturday - Celebrant: Fr. Pelc **Lector:** Elizabeth Puleo-Tague
Eucharistic Ministers: Beverly Bennert, Adam & Maria Cox- Borkowski,
Della Cimini, Ron Hoffman, Mary Helen Quigg-Hillyer
Altar Servers: Julianna Tague, Kiernan Tague

8:30 a.m. - Sunday - Celebrant: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Bob Gatzke
Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Drummond, Colleen Gatzke,
Bernadette Pieczynski, Joellyn Valgoi, John & Liz Witherell
Altar Servers: McKenna, Erica, Corey & Carrigan McGraw

11:15 a.m. - Sunday - Celebrants: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Pat Sperti
Eucharistic Ministers: Doris Fleming, Sue & Roger Playwin,
Janis Ramsey, Darryl Swiatkowski, Cynthia Warner
Altar Servers: Diego & Emilio Garcia

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

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

On Sunday, February 14, 2016

in envelopes we received \$6,852.00

in the loose collection \$520.00

in electronic donations \$1,200.00

in children's envelopes \$7.00

for a total of **\$ 8,579.00**

Under budget for the week **\$1,521.00**

Number of envelopes mailed 800

Number of envelopes used 190

This is not good.

The Lenten Season should signal high attendance and extraordinary sacrifice from parishioners.

We cannot keep up with expenses when we run this far under-budget on what should otherwise be a solid collection weekend. If you are on vacation, please don't leave your parish in the lurch!

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, Arthur Stoyshin and Ed Ploe.

Tap Into Life Tonight

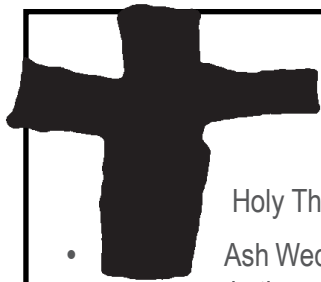
Deacon Tom, returns to the parish this weekend just in time for the latest session of **Tap Into Life**. This is a joint venture in Young Adult Ministry between St. Ambrose Parish and the Capuchins. This Sunday night's session begins at 6:00 and it will be held at the Solanus Casey Center, 1780 Mt. Elliot in Detroit. The topic will be "God's Abundant Mercy" through the life of Solanus. Spread the word via social networks. You don't have to be a parishioner or even Catholic to attend.

E-Donations

St. Ambrose Parish is equipped to make electronic transfers from your checking account or credit card on our website. Christian Financial Credit Union brings 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 may be used to make a single donation; or you may set up automatic weekly, monthly or quarterly contributions on a schedule. This solution is not meant to replace the current envelope method of collection, but instead to provide an additional alternative for those who might prefer to make their contributions electronically.

We hope this additional financial service allows you another way to manage your stewardship to St. Ambrose. Visit stambrosechurch.net for more information on electronic giving.



Lenten Observances

• Lent is the liturgical season which runs from Ash Wednesday until the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of *total* fast and abstinence from meat.
- All the Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence from meat.
- The **Law of Abstinence** from meat binds persons from the completion of their 14th year — from the day after their 14th birthday, throughout life.
- The **Law of Abstinence** forbids the use of meat, but not eggs, milk or products or condiments made of animal fat. Permissible are soups flavored with meat, meat gravy and sauces.
- The **Law of Fasting** binds persons from the completion of their 18th year to the beginning of their 60th year, i.e., from the day after their 59th birthday.
- The **Law of Fasting** allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and evening, observing as far as quantity and quality are concerned — approved local custom. The order of meals is optional; i.e. the full meal may be taken in the evening instead of at midday. Also: (1) the quantity of food taken at the two lighter meals should not exceed the quantity taken at the full meal. (2) the drinking of ordinary liquids does not break the fast.
- In keeping with the spirit and meaning of the Lenten fast, Catholics are encouraged to observe the Good Friday fast through Holy Saturday and until after the celebration of the Easter Vigil.

Be a Good Steward of the Lenten Season

Christian stewards will greet Lent with the best of intentions. But sometimes, we reach Easter disappointed in our own efforts. Here are some suggestions for keeping us on task during this Lenten season:

- Plan ahead. Give thought and prayer to what will most help you draw closer to Jesus during this special season. Write your intentions down, and
- review them often.
- Keep it simple. Like those folks who sign up for gym memberships on January 1 and give up by January 15, sometimes we approach Lent with too many resolutions. Be realistic and don't set yourself up for guilt.
- Prayer, fasting and almsgiving are the pillars of Lent. Try to do one thing in each of these categories. Stretch yourself a bit and come up with something new and challenging.
- Keep your eyes on Jesus. Coming closer to him through his passion and resurrection is our goal.
- Place Lenten reminders in your home. If you have no crucifix in your living areas, put one there. If you have a crucifix, perhaps affix a spot of purple to it as a reminder of Lent. Find a special picture or holy card that speaks to you and display it.
- Simplify something tangible in your daily life, like your closet or your schedule.
- Place a special candle on the dining room table, and when your family says grace each evening, encourage them to share the struggles and joys of their Lenten resolutions, or perhaps an act of kindness they did that day. This is a good activity for kids.
- Take your family to the Stations of the Cross at least once.
- Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and encourage your family to do so.
- Make it a point to prepare for and participate in the beautiful Triduum liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and even the Easter Vigil. Celebrate the completion of your Lenten exercises.
- After Easter, reflect on your Lenten practices. Remember, God's mercy to us is unlimited. It's not all about what "we" did, but what God does within us.



LENTEN BUFFET DINNERS

Join us in the ARK at St. Ambrose
for dinner every Friday in Lent,
Now through Good Friday on March 25th,
from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

The menu includes a salad bar, soup du jour, fried or baked cod, tater tots, macaroni with cheese, a weekly special entrée, along with rolls, vegetable, coffee and tea.

\$16 per adult • \$10 for children aged 6 to 10.
Carry-out service available (313) 822-1594.

