



ST. AMBROSE PARISH
CENTENNIAL 1916-2016

Beehive

FEBRUARY 28, 2016

Practicing Preventative Mercy

I am convinced. The trees get in the way. Too often. I believe priests fail to see the forest because the trees are in the way, and recognizing this fact will assist us all in shaping priestly ministry in the ideals expressed by Pope Francis for this Year of Mercy.

What are the trees? They are the faithful, loving Catholics who likely most often appear before and around a priest each day. Priests should be grateful to God that these trees stand so prominently in their field of vision. These faithful, loving “trees” occupy the pews of our churches on Sundays. They form the committees that press forward the parish’s and the universal Church’s agendas. They bear witness to the Gospel in their jobs and professions, in their neighborhoods and even in contacts with strangers. To be crass, their hard-earned dollars fill our collection baskets and enable us, here in Babylon, to keep the Church alive and forthcoming.

It is an edifying sight that we see in these good parishioners. We thank God for them. The luster surrounding them obliterates the shadows that also may lie around them. Parents worry as they watch their beloved children reach adulthood and lose interest in the Church. Spousal relationships may sour. Disappointments abound. Illness strikes. Debts multiply. Whatever the cause, we more often may be seeing forbearance than satisfaction.

This Year of Mercy calls bishops, priests and deacons to realize that even the most faithful in our parishes carry burdens. Modern life brings these burdens. Human nature brings burdens. No one is without them. The damage results not from the burdens in and of themselves, but from the strain of bearing them, and in the exhaustion of this strain, the temptation to doubt the goodness of God and the ultimate reward of living the Gospel.

For so many of us, looking beyond the trees means clearly to see the skepticism, the hurt, the despair and the anger weighing down those many people upon whose souls is the sacramental engraving of baptism. The second largest religious body in the United States after practicing Catholics (and “practicing” has a new definition that in itself must be addressed) are persons who once identified themselves as Catholics but have “fallen away.”

This giant group of “once upon a time” Catholics, or Catholics “at heart just not practicing,” includes the marginalized, the disgusted and indeed not uncommonly the misinformed who feel that they personally cannot meet the high standards set by the Church, or that the Church, hopelessly and inhumanely, is tragically old-fashioned and just too rigid.

Into this category fit the very many Catholics who have divorced. (The attention of the previous Synod in Rome, and that of the Holy Father, are welcome. They indicate that this issue, frankly not a problem in our grandparents’ day and time, is being confronted.)

Alarming is the slippage among youth. Granted, great things are happening with young people in so many places regarding their love for Christ, but once again, we cannot fail to see the forest for the trees. The number of young people disinterested in the Church at best, scornful of the Church at worst, is profoundly unsettling.

Finally, many within this group are angry, not necessarily because of any personal issue but because, as they see it, the organizational Church — hierarchy and common folk alike — have not had the passion to push our society into more moral and compassionate directions. The political conservatives accuse us of being too timid. The political liberals

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Preventative Mercy

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say that we are victims of tunnel vision. Either way, we cannot win with them, and they walk away.

Beyond the sizable number of inactive or departed Catholics are the millions upon millions of unchurched Americans and the growing number of people in this country who are, for all practical purposes, atheists or who actually declare their atheism. In our global village, untold millions have never heard of Christ.

Today's atrocities in the Middle East, often targeted against Christians, remind us all that the very name of Jesus represents a threat for many, and it calls to mind not the loving, merciful Lord of the Gospels but the inhumanity visited upon people by others who professed to follow Christ. Things would be different in the Middle East if things had been different in the past, perhaps the past not that far gone, in terms of Christians' indifference to the dignity and to the rights of peoples less powerful.

When we think of mercy, we think first, and at times, exclusively of mercy after the fact. For example, in the debate about divorce, heard at the Synod but hardly new in Church circles, voices were raised, fittingly, to devise pastoral policies that attempt to repair injuries done by divorce and to draw divorced persons into the life of the Church. These voices spoke in the name of divine mercy. Mercy, in its oldest definition, has the quality of healing and the incentive for hope.

Merciful ministry has another aspect. It is preventive. Physicians urge people to be vaccinated for influenza and for pneumonia, ailments commonly experienced in winter. Doctors who tell people under their care to forget about the flu or pneumonia shots since medicine can treat these illnesses, or physicians who encourage patients to eat anything desired, ignoring obesity, since therapies are available for heart disease, or diabetes would not have much of a practice, would seem ridiculous. Our concentration upon divine mercy, and mercy in terms of priestly ministry, also necessarily, critically and logically must include prevention. Our task is to guide people through and, if demanded, away from the prevailing culture. Mercy very much is in this endeavor of prevention and preparation.

Jesus is the Light of the World. Haunted by the effects of original sin, all human beings are bruised and trying to find their way with eyes lacking the best capacity for vision in a thicket of confusion and sin. God's mercy everlastingly has been lavish. As bearers of God's mercy, to conclude, our thinking and efforts must be wide, eager and always loving.

Edited from an 11/1/15 article in Our Sunday Visitor by Msgr Owen F. Campion the associate publisher of that newspaper. He is also the editor of The Priest Magazine, and a former president of the Catholic Press Association and the Vatican's ecclesiastical adviser for the International Catholic Union of the Press.

Detroit's Holy Door of Mercy

Throughout this Jubilee Year, HOLY DOORS will be opened at the major basilicas of Rome, as well as cathedrals worldwide – including our Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Detroit. The faithful who make a pilgrimage and pass through a holy door receive a plenary indulgence.

“The Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons and instills hope.” – Pope Francis, Misericordiae Vultus, 3.

When will our Cathedral Holy Door of Mercy be open to the public? On the First Friday of every month: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and Sunday afternoons: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Individuals and groups less than 15 can visit without an appointment on the days designated above. If you have questions or wish to make other plans, contact holydoor@aod.org or (313) 596-7331.

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) private 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!

St. Ambrose Liturgical Choir

... now under the direction of
Norah Duncan, IV ... holds rehearsals on
Thursdays at 7:15 p.m. in the loft.
New members are always welcome.

Interested volunteers who would like to
sing for Lent, Holy Week and Easter but
cannot commit to the entire year are
especially welcomed at this time.

For more information, contact Dr.
Duncan through the parish office at
stambrose@comcast.net or stop up in
the loft before or after Sunday's masses.

All Things Considered

Bishop Thomas Gumbleton's presentation last week on the Holy Father's book, The Name of God Is Mercy, "netted a catch" of more than 200 people in the ARK. Bishop Tom is an exceptionally clear clarion of Gospel principles ... and the older he gets, the clearer the message seems to be.

Bishop Tom interpreted Pope Francis' book in a framework that made sense in our experience as Catholics here in Detroit.

But you don't necessarily have to listen to the messenger. You can access the message itself. I encourage you to spend some time this Lent reading and reflecting on the Pope's unvarnished words themselves in his book, The Name of God Is Mercy.

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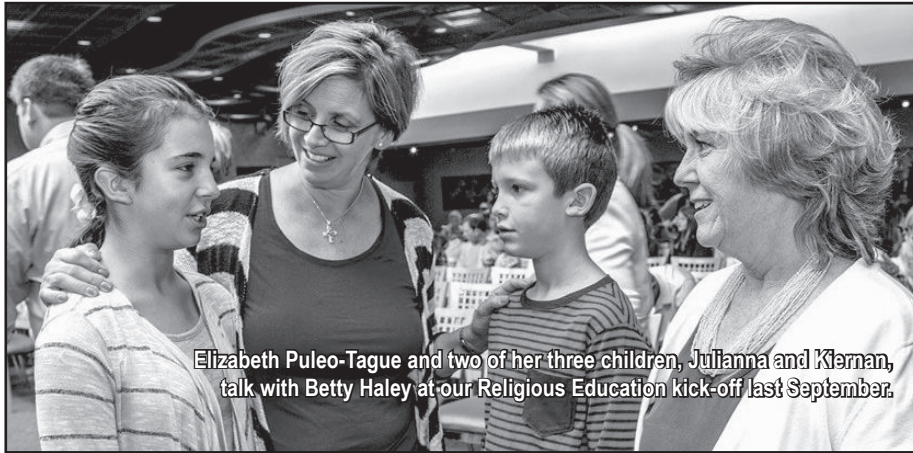
The next session of Marcellina's Book Club is with **Jack Kresnak**, the author of Hope in the City.

This is the story of **Fr. William Cunningham**, a Seminary English professor and **Eleanor Josaitis**, a suburban housewife – and their epic struggle to combat racism in Detroit. This unlikely duo co-founded the social services organization named **Focus: HOPE**, in the wake of Detroit's 1967 riots. Focus:HOPE offered (and continues to offer) job training, as well as food programs for the poor and elderly in the city.

The story of Cunningham and Josaitis, along with the establishment of Focus/HOPE, is one of the most optimistic episodes to have emerged out of a very dark period of Detroit's recent history.

When Bishop Gumbleton heard that we were going to talk about Fr. Cunningham, he said, "I want to be here for that!" I think you should be here too. Our session with the author will be on Sunday morning, April 17th.

Hope for the City carries a five-star rating on Amazon Books. You can order from them, or pick a copy up from a local book seller. We can also order this book through our parish offices.



Elizabeth Puleo-Tague and two of her three children, Julianna and Kieran, talk with Betty Haley at our Religious Education kick-off last September.

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Watch out for the phrase: "**Unleash the Gospel.**" It signifies a major push on the part of **Archbishop Allen Vigneron** to change the DNA of our Church in Detroit into a Body of Christ on a mission!

What our Archbishop is attempting by this effort is nothing less than a radical overhaul of our Church in Detroit – a complete reversal of our focus from *inward*, or maintenance-focused, to *outward*, or mission-focused.

In announcing this effort, Archbishop Allen said: "*Our charge to Unleash the Gospel is a phrase we are using in the Archdiocese to describe a number of initiatives to encounter Jesus, grow as disciples, and give witness to His love. But it is more than just a brand or slogan. When you see this phrase used, know that "Unleash the Gospel" is intended to signal a calling from Jesus – a calling which we embrace personally, and together as a community.*"

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The **Annual Scout Recognition Mass** for our Archdiocese is scheduled for next Sunday, March 6th at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral beginning at 2:00 p.m. What makes that occasion special to us here at St. Ambrose is that **Elizabeth Puleo-Tague**, whom **Betty Haley** and I co-nominated, was chosen as a recipient for the **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Award**

An annual part of the Catholic

Youth Organization of our Archdiocese, the Seton Award was created in 1980 to recognize the significant contributions of persons serving the spiritual needs of Catholic members in organizations serving girls.

This medal, which Elizabeth Puleo-Tague will

receive next week, affirms her and those who like her, help young girls develop their spiritual lives within the context of a Church organization. And as such, is it also intended to recognize notable contributions to women in this field of youth ministry.

Elizabeth Puleo-Tague is being recognized primarily for her work in the Catholic Girl Scouts Association, but the Seton honor continues beyond her service in that organization.

She is also being recognized for qualities included as an active member of our Religious Education program – a creative 5th grade teacher – and a Catechist who is approaching full certification.

In addition, you will also recognize Elizabeth as one of our lectors at weekend mass.

We congratulate Elizabeth and the extraordinary witness she provides to young girls in living a joyful, Christian life.

TRP



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

Save the Date!
Friday, June 10, 2016.

Make plans now to join the St. Ambrose 2nd Annual Bee at the Tee Golf Classic benefiting our Religious Education program and activities related to our Centennial year!

Last year, over 80 people were involved in some way, golfing, dining, volunteering or just socializing. The goal for this year is at least a 100 golfers – keeping in the spirit of our centennial year.

Bee at the Tee begins at 11:00 AM with sign-in/lunch. Picture at noon, then a shot gun start for golf. The day concludes with dinner at the ARK.

You can register at StAmbroseBeeAtTheTee.com or use one of the flyers located at the back of church. Don't play golf? Join us for dinner or consider volunteering for the golf course or dinner.

You can also help with a sponsorship, many levels exist to suite every budget. You can also help by spreading the word and help us get additional sponsors-consider asking your doctor, dentist, accountant or lawyer.

Dave Simmet and Brian Satterfield are also looking for a few other folks to be on our planning committee. Contact us at St.Ambrosegolf@gmail.com for more information.

Friar on Fire

Last September some of our brothers came from the General Curia to the Solanus Casey Center to give a talk on their work in the missions. It was then that I was able to hear about the letter that was sent out to the Order by our General Minister sharing that Pope Francis specifically asked the Capuchins to promote the Year of Mercy. He had asked all the friars from around the world to attend a Mass with Pope Francis and that the bodies of Saints Padre Pio and Leopold de Mandic were to be brought to St. Peter's Basilica. I was asked to represent the Center and to mirror what Pope Francis has done with highlighting the Capuchin Saints through the life of Father Solanus. Pope Francis is inviting all people to overflow our world with God's Abundant Mercy through our very lives.

I have to say the most shocking sight for me was traveling to the Basilica early in the morning the day of the Capuchin Mass. When we turned the corner there was just an unbelievable sight of a Sea of Brown. As we approached the crowd of brothers, there was an excitement of great joy as everyone greeted one another with warm embraces and laughter. It was an energy of fraternity that I have never experienced before. It helped me to realize and understand to a greater depth that I belong to a group of brothers, which is something much greater than myself. I always knew that the Capuchin Order is an International Order, but the experience helped me to understand the meaning to a greater depth and understanding.

I was very fortunate and blessed to be able to sit in the front of the Mass for the Capuchins on the side and was able to take some good pictures and document the event for the Solanus Center. Pope Francis had a very simple Mass with the brothers and he was able to be at ease with the friars. It was a true blessing to be with the brothers for Mass. After the Mass the friars eventually gathered together and we were asked to process through the Holy Doors of Mercy and venerate the relics of Padre Pio and Leopold de Mandic. I was close to the front of the procession behind the General Minister. We all processed down the middle of St. Peter's and the aural sound of over a thousand Capuchin brothers singing with full voice was a very moving and visceral sensation. The beauty of uniting our voices and becoming one was an indescribable experience.

As we venerated the bodies and relics of these two great saints in the Church, I realized an important insight for me that before we are ever saints, a priest or a deacon, we are simply brothers. Our gift and our strength comes from our fraternity and brotherhood and knowing that God uses little brothers to be Christ's hands and feet for all the world. I think Solanus realized how little he was and how he always inspired others by his way of Mercy through abundant gratitude. He constantly thanked God ahead of time and shared God's Mercy with everyone he encountered. Father Solanus was a brother to all and became the servant and instrument of God's gracious Mercy. Solanus continues to flood our world with God's Mercy, not just in the confessional ministry at the Center, but how he calls and invites others to the Corporal and Spiritual Acts of Mercy in all of our ministries.

May we all continue to take this spirituality of Fr. Solanus and to see how we can share Mercy in our world by our gratitude and seeing each other as brothers and sisters. We are invited in this Year of Mercy to be transformed by the abundant Love of God that outpours from the very Heart of God.

Br. Tom

Nourishing the Soul

The Solanus Casey Center's 12th Annual "Nourishing the Soul" Wine Tasting Event will be held Saturday, March 19th, at 6:00 p.m. This year's event has moved to the newly remodeled Petruzzello's Banquet and Conference Center on Rochester Road in Troy. Tickets are \$95 per person, include valet parking, and can be purchased by calling (313) 579-2100, ext. 153 or online: SolanusCenter.org

Religious Education Notes

Moses' conversation with the Lord at the site of the burning bush is one of the great moments of the Hebrew scriptures. It is here that the Lord God revealed to us his name – I Am Who Am – as a sign of his willingness to enter into an intimate relationship with us. The significance of the revelation of the Lord's name can only be understood within the context of the ancient understanding of naming.

To name something was to have power over it. It is why God gave Adam the task of naming the animals. He wanted the human to have dominance over all of creation so as to be the caretaker of all that God lovingly called into existence. The only thing the human could not name was the Lord God himself and, in fact, the human (in particular the Israelites) had no name for God. They didn't know what to call God. This is the reason that Moses – who was to speak to his tribe for God – asked God for his name. Knowing God's name would give him the authority he needed before the Israelites to bring them his message.

In giving his name, the Lord first identifies himself as the God of the patriarchs and in this way connects himself with his people in past, present, and future. Our God is present with us for all time and through all of our journeys – through our happiness and our sorrow. Our God is one who not only sees our needs and our sufferings; he is a God who deeply cares and even intervenes. "Through all the generations" we can know that wherever we go and whatever happens to us, God is there.

"Thus, shall you say to the Israelites: The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is my name forever; thus am I to be remembered through all generations."

OUR LENTEN OFFERING This Sunday, religious education is once again in full swing – and fully into the Lenten season. Catechists have prepared special lessons for their students that emphasize the three pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. One of the ways we pray during Lent is to participate in the Stations of the Cross. While many of you may be coupling your fish dinner here at St. Ambrose with participation in the Stations of the Cross on Friday nights in the church, catechists will also be taking their classes over to the church on Sunday mornings in order to pray the Stations with their students during class time.

Too, almsgiving will have a special place in our Sunday program. We are asking each student to bring one dollar to class this Sunday or next to be collectively sent to the **Kay Lasante Clinic** in Port au Prince, Haiti *via* Bishop Gumbleton. The Kay Lasante Clinic began under the auspices of the parish community of St. Claire in Port au Prince and their pastor, Fr. Gerard Jean Juste. The premise of the clinic is that health care is a basic human right. In this way, this clinic is committed to serving the poor and the marginalized who have no access to health care in that community. Our one dollars go a long way. Anyone who wishes to contribute to this cause can find more information on Bishop Gumbleton's website: bishoptgumbleton.com.

PARENT-CANDIDATE SESSION FOR FIRST EUCHARIST

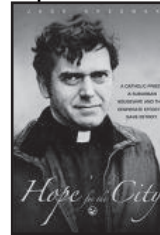
Our last session for preparation for First Communion this Holy Week is to be held on Monday, February 29th at 6:30 p.m in the ARK. Important information about the upcoming communion celebrations will take place at this session. In addition, children will be designing their special First Communion plate (that I will be sending out the next morning to be processed in time for the Breaking Bread Banquet).

Betty

Vincentian Reflection

Lent is a call not just to "give up something" but more important to "give something for the poor. Wherever you live in the parish, there are individuals and families living in poverty within walking distance of your home. When in need, they call or ring the rectory bell. They are in effect, ringing your doorbell or calling your phone. During this past month, your gifts, to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul here at St. Ambrose was able to assist 57 families, providing food, clothing, furniture and help with utility and rent bills.

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 Dropriewski

Religious Education: Elizabeth Haley

Minister of Music: Norah Duncan, IV

Office Manager: Lois Sokolowski

Sacramental Celebrations

Masses: On the Lord's Day –

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.

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

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

Penance: As announced and by appointment.

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

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

Directory

Parish Office: 15020 Hampton

Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230

Tel: (313) 822-2814 **Fax:** (313) 822-9838

Email address: stambrose@comcast.net

Religious Education: (313) 822-1248

Ark Scheduling: (313) 822-2814

Parish Website: stambrosechurch.net

Liturgy Schedule for the Coming Week

Monday, February 29

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Tuesday, March 1

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Joan Sossi,
Helen Allard

Wednesday, March 2

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Thursday, March 3

St. Katherine Drexel, virgin

7:00 p.m. - Mass - Miguel Davila

Friday, March 4

St. Casimir

8:30 a.m. - Ray & Rosanna Tessmer
7:00 p.m. - Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 5

1:30 p.m. - Wedding -
Jessica Stella and Michael Mooney
4:00 p.m. - Mass - For All the People

Sunday, March 6

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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



Scriptures for the 3rd Week in Lent

Monday, February 29

- 2 Kgs 5: 1-15b
- Pss 42: 2-3; 43: 3-4
- Lk 4: 24-30

Tuesday, March 1

- Dt 3: 25, 34-43
- Ps 25: 4-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9
- Mt 18: 21-35

Wednesday, March 2

- Dt 4: 1, 5-9
- Ps 147: 12-13, 15-16, 19-20
- Mt 5: 17-19

Thursday, March 3

- Jer 7: 23-28
- Ps 95: 1-2, 6-9
- Lk 11: 14-23

Friday, March 4

- Hos 14: 2-10
- Ps 81: 6c-11b-14-17
- Mk 12: 28-34

Saturday, March 5

- Hos 6: 1-6
- Ps 51: 3-4, 18-21b
- Lk 18: 9-14

Sunday, March 6

- Jos 5: 9a, 10-12
- 2 Cor 5: 17-21
- Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 5th and March 6th

4:00 p.m. – Saturday – Celebrant: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Pat Ticknor
Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Bennert, Patrick Bernas,
Adam & Maria Cox-Borkowski, Bob & Jeri Krueger
Altar Servers: Charlie Bernas, Frankie Pangborn

8:30 a.m. – Sunday – Celebrant: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Steve Peck
Eucharistic Ministers: Bob & Judy Jogan, Steve & Liz Linne,
Bernadette Pieczynski, Joellyn Valgoi
Altar Servers: Lauren Carron, Anna Carron

11:15 a.m. – Sunday - Celebrants: Fr. Pelc **Lector:** Michele Hodges
Eucharistic Ministers: Doris Fleming, Mary Ghesquiere,
Michele Hodges, Roger & Sue Playwin, Darryl Swiatkowski
Altar Servers: Liam O'Byrne, Grace Whitaker

Your Envelope Speaks . . . the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish requires a *minimum* of \$10,100.00
On Sunday, February 21, 2016
in envelopes we received \$9,207.00
in the loose collection \$682.00
in electronic donations \$1,200.00
in children's envelopes \$8.00
for a total of **\$11,097.00**
Over budget for the week \$997.00
Number of envelopes mailed 800
Number of envelopes used 181

Thanks For Giving

The fitting response for one who receives a gift is to say "thank you." Our response in gratitude to God for the gift of mercy is to share mercy with others, to be, in the words of Pope Francis, "mercy-ing." Accept the call to be bearers of God's mercy as good and faithful stewards.

Our Sick

Please pray for our parishioners who are seriously ill or hospitalized:
Kay Balas, Peyton Barron, Pat Blake, Laura Bush, Steven Bush, Dominic Centorbi, Andrew Chavez, Maria Chinchilla, Karen Culver, Mary Pat Egan, Kathleen Elbersen, Dan Fleming, Mary Ellen Greenup, Angela Hansen, Elizabeth Howard, Ann Sullivan Kay, Donald & Marilyn Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Mary Myers, Jeanne Noto, Ray Oberly, Elizabeth Robert, Bob Ramsey, David Schumacker, Fred Schroeder, Matthew Elias, Susan Bucec, Scott Nedoff, Felix Checki, Betty Greenia, Emilie Kasper, Angeline Boluk, Arthur Stoyshin and Ed Ploe.

Our Dead

A funeral liturgy was celebrated by Fr. Pelc, assisted by Dn. Nguyen, on Friday, February 19th for **Francisco "Pancho" Cordova**, age 85.

Pancho was born in Cuba and came to the United States via Mexico more than 50 years ago as part of a group of exiles that fled the Castro regime. Upon his arrival in Detroit, he worked for MTS Steel until his retirement in 1997. He and his wife Nereida were frequent and faithful members of St. Ambrose Parish, although they lived in Harper Woods. Pancho loved sports, especially baseball. He looked forward to his annual trip to southern Florida to visit his family and other Cubans who had been transplanted and settled there.

Pancho was predeceased by his wife of fifty years, Nereida. He is survived by his children Frank (Terry) and Richard (Rosalind), his sister, Quina Cordova, and four grandchildren.

Cross and the Light

... is a rock musical and surround video experience that takes us from Christ's entry in Jerusalem, through his murder, and to the surprising events that occur after his death. Performances are at Star of the Sea on:

Thursday, March 10th, at 8:00 p.m.

Friday, March 11th, at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 12th, at 8:00 p.m.

There will be a free-will offering.



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.

A Family Perspective

The owner of the Fig Tree was impatient because the tree did not live up to his expectations. In families there are those who don't live up to our expectations. Imitate the gardener and give them more time and help. Don't cut them out of your life. Love asks us to be connected, not productive.

Come and See

There are many ways to live a good life. One powerful way is to become a Sister with the Dominicans of Adrian. We preach the life-giving Word of God to our world in many ways, through our ministries and our commitment to God's people and creation. We base our lives on the four Dominican pillars of prayer, study, community, and preaching/ministry. We welcome single Catholic women to come and discern God's call in your life with us.

Join them at their next "Come and See" weekend at the Adrian Dominican Sisters' Motherhouse, 1257 E. Siena Heights Drive, Adrian. The weekend begins at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 15th and concludes at 1:00 p.m. Sunday, April 17th.

Go to: adriandominicans.org/BecomeaSister/ComeandSee or call (517) 266-3530 to register. Contact Sister Lorraine at (517) 266-3532 or LReaume@adriandominicans.org



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.



Stewardship Moment

In today's Gospel Jesus offers his parable about last chances. The Fig Tree will have one last chance to bear fruit before it is cut down and destroyed. Good stewards realize that, like the Fig Tree, they are endowed with God-given gifts that are meant to "bear fruit" for God and neighbor. God has legitimate expectations of them. They also realize they do not know how much time they have left before the gardener returns for an accounting of their fruitfulness.

How are you using your God-given gifts? How might we use your gifts to bear more fruit? The answer requires some urgency.