

Kenosis, Climate Change & Christianity

The following excerpt from an essay by Sallie McFague, PhD was used as part of the presentation today at our Adult Education session, "Climate Change: Our Call to Conversion." It was adapted from her book, [Blessed are the Consumers: Climate Change and the Practice of Restraint](#) © 2013 Fortress Press.

The 2010 edition of "State of the World," a highly-regarded annual report from the Worldwatch Institute, suggests that religions must be major players in the most important two-sided crisis of our time – the economic and ecological one. The report applauds religions for recent attention to environmental concerns – from "greening" church buildings to re-evaluating scriptures for ecological friendly doctrines – but bemoans that religions have not given comparable attention to economics. Somehow they fail to see the intrinsic connection between environmentalism and consumerism.

I would suggest that religions are being asked to take on what no other field has been willing to assume, yet is at the heart of their own message: "a wholesale transformation of dominant cultural patterns," particularly at the level of consumerism. As the "State of the World" asserts: "Of the three drivers of environmental impact – population, affluence and technology – affluence, a proxy for consumption, is the arena in which secular institutions have been the least successful in promotion of restraint."

Restraint, as summed up in the Golden Rule (Do unto others as you would have them do unto you) is a major practice of most religions. It is the one thing needed now and is, I believe, both a gift from religions and the challenge to them. It could be considered a "coming home" for religions as well as their greatest contribution to the economic/ecological crisis facing us. The report sums it up well: Their special gift – the millennia old paradoxical insight that happiness is found in self-emptying, that satisfaction is found more in relationships than in things, and that simplicity can lead to a fuller life – is urgently needed today.

I consider these words to be marching orders for religions. Such a position would not only serve the planet, but also be a return of religions to their own spiritual roots and cause them to recognize how far they have deviated. The insidious message that the purpose of human life is to consume is a "heresy" and should be condemned as such!

Religious traditions may find such a return re-vitalizing of their basic message – restraint, not for the sake of ascetic denial of the world, but in order that "abundant life" might be possible for all. My small contribution is to take up this challenge with an in-depth study of one form of restraint in one religion – "**kenosis**" or "**self-emptying**" in Christianity.

We have reached the point in public discussion of the planet's twin monetary and ecological crises where we have one major need – not more information but strategies, practices, for moving into action. Can religions make a contribution by sharing their profound, counter-cultural, and often unpopular message that abundant life at both personal and public levels is found not by expressing one's ego as our market-oriented, individualist culture encourages, but by losing one's ego in service to others? Can we see this much-neglected aspect of many world religions – counter-cultural kenosis – not as the only answer to the issues, but as one, important and needed perspective?

Increasingly, the issue of how to live well has become one of changing from how we are living now to a different way. As our ecological and economic crises have become worse, more people are questioning the reigning culture of insatiable greed. They are coming to the conclusion that the prospects of consumer culture have been greatly overrated and serious change at a fundamental level – of who we think we are in the scheme of things and what we must do – is necessary. Change at this level is incredibly difficult. Yet, it is precisely change at this fundamental level that most religions are about – it is called "conversion" in Christian circles and demands thinking and living differently than conventional society recommends.

But how do people change behavior? Behind our decisions of how to live stand our most basic beliefs: who do we think we are in the scheme of things? What is our worldview? One thoughtful person puts it this way: "Be careful how you interpret the world. It is like that." We live within our models, our worldviews, and they deeply influence the decisions we make, including ones about the environment.

For instance, if we hold views of God, the world, and ourselves that are dualistic, individualistic, and anthropocentric, we will "naturally" decide that climate change,

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Continued from page 1

for instance, is not a serious matter. If we see God as a distant, supernatural, all-powerful being who rules the world, then it is not our responsibility to change our behavior so poor human beings and other animals might live. Rather, we say, “Let God do it.” If, however, we see everything, including God, as interrelated and interdependent, a worldview supported by contemporary science as well as the wisdom of many religions, then we see we are responsible for the well-being of the whole, including less fortunate human beings and other life-forms.

We need to change our images of God, from seeing God as king and master over the world to imagining the world as within God, like a baby in the womb. We live and move and have our being within God. We need to wake up from the lie of the current worldview of individual, selfish fulfillment through consumerism to the reality of fulfillment by sharing with needy fellow creatures and the earth itself. Religious understandings of limitation, detachment, self-emptying, and compassion can help us do this. The Christian notion of self-emptying and the Buddhist understanding of compassion are two illustrations of the contribution religions should be making to the crisis of climate change. What we need is to move from one worldview of self, of who we are in the scheme of things, which encourages narrow, individualistic, greedy behavior to a view of self as “universal,” in which all are included. The Dalai Lama has said that we ought to think of the needs of strangers in the same way that a mother responds to the needs of her child, and Christians say much the same thing with “love your neighbor as yourself.” We might put it this way: the world is my body. Who I am does not stop with the limits of my own skin, or with my own family or nation or even with all human beings, but stretches to include all living creatures. Only with such a radical change in “who we think we are” will we be able to make the deep changes necessary to turn us around from ruining the planet to helping it flourish. This change needs to happen at all levels of our life from the personal – what we eat and how we get to work – to the public – how we tax carbon emissions and distribute scarce resources fairly.

Thus, I am suggesting that the religions of the world have a major role to play in the climate change crisis. Religion should answer the call to return to its deepest roots of restraint, limitation, sharing, and self-emptying so others might live. This process of change from belief to action contains the following steps:

Experiences of **voluntary poverty** can shock middle-class people away from self-fulfillment through possessions and prestige and toward self-emptying as a pathway for personal and planetary well-being.

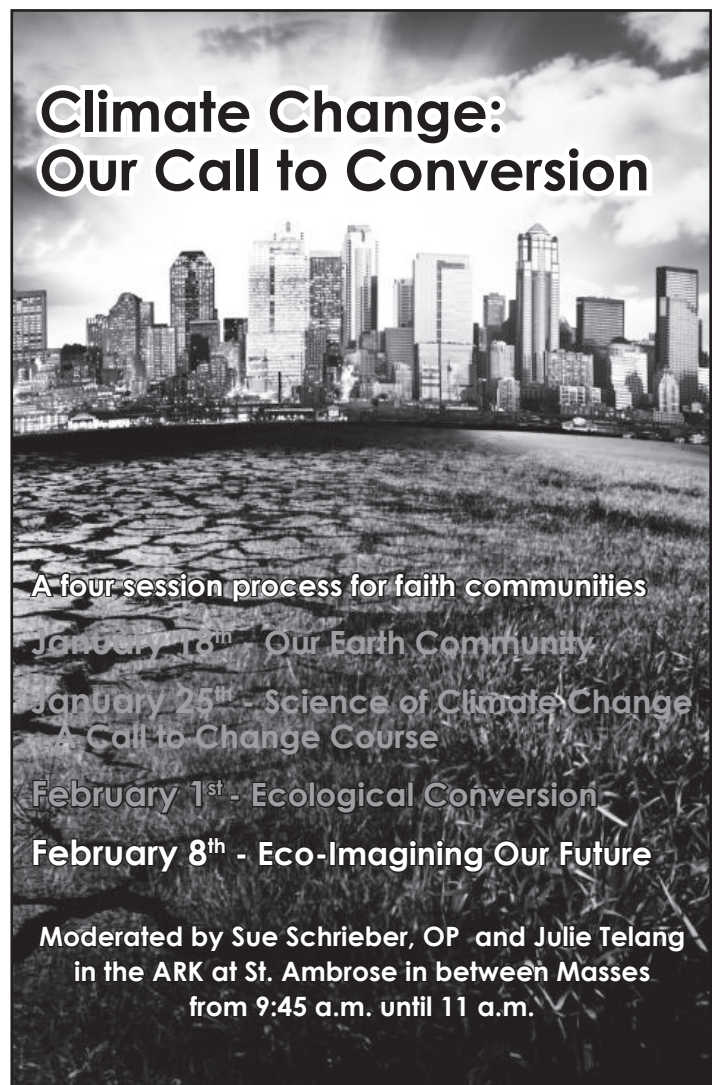
The focus of one’s attention on the needs of others, especially the most physical, basic needs, i.e., food. Freed

from finding fulfillment through accumulation, one is able to really pay attention to others, not as objects for one’s own goals, but as subjects in their own right. These subjects are other human beings or life-forms, and even the processes that sustain life such as rivers, trees, and climate patterns.

The gradual development of a **universal self**. As the line containing one’s concern for others (compassion) moves from its narrow focus on the ego (and one’s nearest and dearest) to reach out further and further until there is no line left: even a caterpillar counts. This journey, rather than diminishing the self, increases its delight.

The model of **inclusive self** operates at both personal and public levels. For instance, the planetary House Rules operate at both public and personal levels: **1) Take only your share; 2) Clean up after yourself; 3) Keep the house in good repair for future occupants.**

In conclusion, while other fields contributing to our planetary crises often end with the despairing remark, “Of course, it is a spiritual, and ethical problem,” the religions of the world should offer their distinctive answer: “Yes, it is, and let us look at that process of change from belief to action.”



Climate Change: Our Call to Conversion

A four session process for faith communities

January 18th - Our Earth Community

January 25th - Science of Climate Change
A Call to Change Course

February 1st - Ecological Conversion

February 8th - 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

Candlemas Day was celebrated last week Monday. Candles for home use that were blessed on that feast are now available to you at the icon of the Perpetual Help in the front, west-side of the sanctuary. Burning candles in our homes is a custom that is very popular today, with entire stores dedicated to selling just candles. But *blessed* candles are different, they are a *sacramental* and an invitation to deeper prayer. How should you use these blessed candles?

- When storms are threatening, the light of these candles are a sign of Christ's protective love.

- When the family prays together, light these candles as a sign that where two or three are gathered, Christ is present.

- When someone is sick and the priest or pastoral minister is coming, light these candles as a sign that Christ's healing presence is near.

- At a special celebration like a birthday or anniversary, as a sign of thanksgiving for Christ's blessing.

St. Sophronius said, "*Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine splendor of the One who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole world radiant with the brilliance of his eternal light. Our candles also show how bright our souls should be when we go out to meet Christ.*"



Saturday is Valentine's Day. It's also the day of our annual Auction/Dinner Dance. As predicted, the event has sold out! But even though you can't get a seat at the party, you can still participate in the auction. This weekend, after all our masses, stop over at the ARK where you can preview the auction items. Some things will be available for a "buy now" price. Other items will stay open for

bids until the closing of the auction on Saturday, but you'll be able to place an absentee bid on these.

This year, donated auction items, although of better quality, are fewer than in previous years. So I want you to know that it's not too late to put items up for Saturday's sale. 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.

To discuss donations or to arrange for pick-up, contact Bob or Jan Ramsey at (313) 885-4784. Proceeds from the auction go 100% to the operations of the parish. Bob can also supply you with a written appraisal for tax purposes.



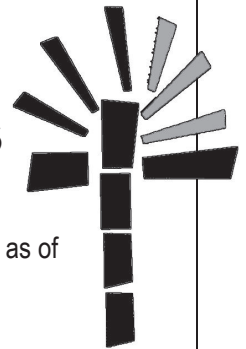
Our series on **Climate Change: Our Call to Conversion** concludes this weekend. The final session, in between our Sunday masses, will be held in one of the breakout rooms of the ARK. This series has proven to be very popular, and the topic is certainly an important one. Today's front page of the bulletin comes from some of the materials presented at today's session.

In the next few weeks, **Pope Francis** will issue an encyclical on the subject to the world's 1.2 billion Catholics; give an address to the United Nations general assembly; and call a summit of the world's main religions on this very same topic. The reason for such frenetic activity is the Pope's wish to directly influence next year's crucial UN climate meeting in Paris, when countries will try to conclude 20 years of negotiations fraught with a universal commitment to reduce emissions. The program book from our sessions is a worthwhile read in itself. If you missed the sessions, but want a copy, contact us at 822-2814.



You don't have to be Catholic to celebrate St. Valentine's Day. Many couples agree that it's nice to take one day to celebrate their love. Case in point? It's an extremely popular day for marriage proposals. It's estimated

Toward the
St. Ambrose
Centennial 2016



St. Ambrose Building
and Renovation Debt as of

January 2011
\$3,830,668.82

Balance as of December 2014
\$1,119,309.88

that over six million couples in the United States are likely to get engaged this Saturday.

If you are planning marriage here at St. Ambrose in the near future, we'd love to start working with you on the planning. Before you make any other arrangements regarding a date for your marriage, contact me or our Pastoral Minister, **Chuck Dropiewski**. We're really pretty adaptable and friendly about helping couples prepare for the sacrament of marriage.

But we can't ignore the fact that for some other couples whose relationships are troublesome, Valentine's Day could be more painful than pleasant. We want to help lovers in that situation too. Every marriage deserves the opportunity to survive, be healed and thrive as a covenant of life and God's love.

There's an excellent program called *Retrouvaille* where hurting couples find hope. *Retrouvaille* is a Christian peer ministry focused on reaching out to hurting couples longing for renewal. The word *Retrouvaille*TM (*pronounced re-tro-vi with a long i.*) is a French word meaning "rediscovery." The program offers tools needed to rediscover a lasting marriage relationship. Thousands of couples headed for cold, unloving relationships or divorce have successfully overcome their marriage problems by attending this program. In the metro area, there are programs scheduled for March 6th and May 1st. For information, go to *retrouvaille*. info or call 1-800-470-2230.

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).

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.

Religious Education Notes

Today's readings deal with suffering, beginning with Job who asks for relief from his suffering, to Paul who offers no complaint regarding the personal sacrifices he has had to make in order to preach the Gospel message. The Gospel itself is a testimony to the mission of Christ who came to heal those afflicted in body and spirit. While suffering – and the injustice that often comes with it – are a part of life, it need not have the last word. It is our belief that God has the last word. That is what gives us hope.

"Illness" is by definition a lack of vital force. Certain illnesses are fatal—we lose our life at the conclusion of them. While most illnesses can result in recovery, we realize that while we are sick we are not at full capacity (we are not fully ourselves). When Jesus healed someone, what he was really doing was transferring his vital force – his own life – into the person who was being healed. In doing this he was able to do more than restore a person to good health. In fact, he was giving them the fullness of life they needed in order to be and to do what they were created to do or be.

Our own suffering should have the effect of making us more compassionate to others in their suffering. The Christian is called to walk with those who suffer so as to exemplify the goodness of God that continues to dwell in all of us and to have the last word. If there is any good in suffering (and we believe there can be), it is that we can realize that God loves us in our weakness and our need – while God is reflected in those who care for us.

LENTEN PROJECT One of our 7th grade catechists – Dr. Bern Degan – expressed the challenge for us to reach out to those in Haiti whose suffering seems never really to be alleviated. Thanks to his effort, we are going to ask our families in religious education (and anyone else who wishes to join us) to support Bishop Gumbleton's cause, **Kay Lasante**, a health clinic serving the Petite Place Cazeau and Caradeux communities of Port au Prince, Haiti.

Kay Lasante translated means "**House of Health**" and operates under the guiding principle that health care is a basic need and a human right. It was founded in 2004 as a project by the St. Claire Parish community in Haiti and the House of Grace Catholic Worker in Philadelphia together with Bishop Tom Gumbleton. Today, Kay Lasante operates as an outpatient medical clinic which serves the health care needs of the surrounding community through health care services that include consultation, education, prevention, home visits (especially to the elderly), follow-up care, and outreach. On site is a pharmacy that provides medication at no cost. Patients are those who have been marginalized and lack access to health care. The mission of Kay Lasante is to treat each person who comes for care with both dignity and respect. Information about Kay Lasante can be found on Bishop Gumbleton's website: bishopgumbleton.com or at kaylasante.org.

Donations should be made out to Fonkoze USA with Project Kay Lasante in the memo line and sent to the parish office through the collection box, mail, or in person. We will forward all donations to Kay Lasante through Bishop Gumbleton and I will report our total offerings at the end of the Lenten season. This project provides one small way to alleviate the suffering of others and to allow God to act through us for others.

SUFFERING IS NOT LIMITED TO HUMANS Fifth grader, Julianna Tague and her Junior Girl Scout Troop have recognized that when humans suffer, their pets do also. So many pets are left out in the cold or abandoned on home-made chains that cause pets to suffer and die. She has been helping to spearhead a project to collect collars and leashes that are then donated to "All About Animals." For her efforts in convincing 35 local businesses to assist in this project, the Grosse Pointe Schools have asked Julianna to be a speaker in the first of its kind "N'spire" event that asks young people to speak about what inspires them. Good job, Julianna!

Betty Haley



B
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 THE
 ST. AMBROSE
 LITURGICAL
 CHOIR

Seeking singers and instrumentalists!

OUR ST. AMBROSE LITURGICAL CHOIR IS LOOKING FOR SINGERS TO JOIN WITH THEM DURING LENT AND EASTER. ST. AUGUSTINE SAID: "FOR HE THAT SINGETH PRAISE, NOT ONLY PRAISETH, BUT ONLY PRAISETH WITH GLADNESS: HE THAT SINGETH PRAISE, NOT ONLY SINGETH, BUT ALSO LOVETH HIM OF WHOM HE SINGETH. IN PRAISE, THERE IS THE SPEAKING FORTH OF ONE CONFESSING; IN SINGING, THE AFFECTION OF ONE LOVING." OVER THE CENTURIES THIS HAS BEEN SIMPLY SHORTENED TO: "THOSE WHO SING PRAY TWICE."

WE WILL BE SINGING PRAYERFUL AND POWERFUL MUSIC AND INVITE YOU TO JOIN US. FOR THOSE WHO PLAY INSTRUMENTS, WE ARE FORMING A SMALL BAND FOR PALM SUNDAY TO ACCOMPANY OUR OUTSIDE PROCESSION AND MAYBE TO PLAY DURING THE EASTERTIME FESTIVITIES TOO.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING FOR THIS TIME PERIOD, PLEASE CONTACT MARILYN BIERY THROUGH THE CHURCH OFFICE AT STAMBROSE@COMCAST.NET OR COME UP TO THE CHOIR LOFT AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF!

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 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.

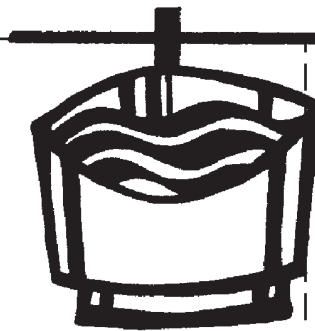
Funeral: Normally celebrated within one week after the deceased's passing.

Directory

Parish Office: 15020 Hampton
 Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230
Tel: (313) 822-2814 **Fax:** (313) 822-9838
Email address: stambrose@comcast.net
Religious Education: (313) 822-1248
Ark Scheduling: (313) 822-2814
School Archives: 313-237-5846
Parish Website: stambrosechurch.net

RCIA: 2014 -2015

NAME _____
 HOME PHONE _____
 WORK PHONE _____
 E-MAIL _____



- I would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith.
- I would like to prepare for Baptism.
- I would like to join the Catholic Church/Community.
- I would like to complete my initiation into the Catholic Church by celebrating my Confirmation and Holy Communion.
- I would like to return to the Church and to a more active practice of my faith.
- I would like to learn more about becoming a sponsor for a new Catholic.
- I would be willing to help with the details of this year's R.C.I.A. program
- Call me for my other needs, requests, questions, etc.

Return this to the Parish Rectory or in the Sunday Collection basket.

Liturgy Schedule for the Coming Week

Monday, February 9

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Tuesday, February 10

St. Scholastica

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Frank Kurta, Sr.
Monica Berkowski

Wednesday, February 11

Our Lady of Lourdes

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Thursday, February 12

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Sergio Casasola
Jo Johnson

Friday, February 13

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Claudette Konzen
Dick & Barb Raymond and family

Saturday, February 14

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

Sunday, February 15

Sixth 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

Scriptures for the Fifth Week of Ordinary Time

Monday, February 9

- Gn 1: 1-19
- Ps 104: 1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c
- Mk 6: 53-56

Tuesday, February 10

- Gn 1: 20-2: 4a
- Ps 8: 4-9
- Mk 7: 1-13

Wednesday, February 11

- Gn 2: 4b-9, 15-17
- Ps 104: 1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30
- Mk 7: 14-23

Thursday, February 12

- Gn 2: 18-25
- Ps 128: 1-5
- Mk 7: 24-30

Friday, February 13

- Gn 3: 1-8
- Ps 32: 1-2, 5-7
- Mk 7: 31-37

Saturday, February 14

- Gn 3: 9-24
- Ps 90: 2-4c, 5-6, 12-13
- Mk 8: 1-10

Sunday, February 15

- Lv 13: 1-2, 44-46
- 1 Cor 10: 31-11: 1
- Mk 1: 40-45

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 14th and February 15th

4:00 p.m. – Saturday – Celebrant: Fr. Pelc Lector: Jeri Krueger
Eucharistic Ministers: Maria & Adam Borkowski, Ron Hoffman, Bob Krueger,
Karen McShane, Elizabeth Puleo-Tague, Janis Ramsey
Altar Servers: Joseph & Nicholas Kurta

8:30 a.m. – Sunday – Celebrant: Fr. Bede Lector: Steve Peck
Eucharistic Ministers: Peter Hern, Judy & Bob Jogan, Liz & Steve Linne,
Bernadette Pieczynski, Chris Walsh
Altar Servers: Nicholas, Margaret, & Meredith Kramer

11:15 a.m. – Sunday – Celebrant: Fr. Pelc Lector: Pat Sperti
Eucharistic Ministers: Anne Billiu, Lupe Davila, Mary Ghesquiere,
Darryl Swiatkowski, Mary Urbanski, Cynthia Warner, Anthony Yaden
Altar Servers: Liam & Maria Liburdi

Your Envelope ... Speaks the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish

requires a *minimum* of \$10,127.00

On Sunday, February 1, 2015

in envelopes we received\$7,827.00

in the loose collection\$577.00

in electronic donations\$1,200.00

in children's envelopes.....\$17.00

for a total of **\$9,621.00**

Under budget for the week \$506.00

FY 14-15 under budget **\$25,897.00**

Number of envelopes mailed 800

Number of envelopes used 181

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

We need to clear up our budget shortfall.

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 Weiksnar, 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.

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins on February 18th. Ashes will be distributed at morning Mass at 8:30. There will be a Scripture Service at 12:00 noon and an Evening Mass at 7:00.

Ash Wednesday is a day of complete fast and abstinence from meat.

Discernment Day

Is Jesus calling you or someone you know to become a priest? Consider attending the Day of Discernment with Archbishop Allen Vigneron. This Day of Discernment is for men aged 17 to 55 seeking a better understanding of their vocation from the Lord. It takes place on February 21st at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit. Visit detroitpriest.com.

A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today's gospel Jesus went to the "house of Andrew and Simon" to relax but discovered that "Simon's mother-in-law was very ill. Like Jesus we come home to relax but are confronted with problems. Take a tip from Andrew and Simon who "told Jesus about it at once."

The Collection Basket

St. Ambrose Parish has a new procedure for the Offertory Collection at our weekend Masses. Baskets are “passed” from one person to the next rather than having an usher “collect” from everyone.

The goal is to personalize – to give a more direct “hands-on” experience – of this moment in the Liturgy for each of us. Catholics are allowed to receive Holy Communion with their hands. How appropriate that our hands be involved in a preparation of things that will be “consecrated” – “made holy” by the need and use of the Church, the Body of Christ!

World Marriage Day – A Day to Celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage

A sage once wrote that a good marriage is like a fire around which others come to warm themselves. So, as we celebrate World Marriage Day this Sunday, we realize that no matter our station in life – married, single or religious – we have benefited from this sacred covenant relationship whether through the example of our parents, grandparents, and other role models, or through our own stewardship of the marriage covenant.

For the Catholic steward, marriage goes far beyond the legal or societal agreement that our culture might define. For the Catholic steward, marriage is a sacrament that fosters a sacred covenant; establishing family and nurturing the domestic church which we understand is fundamental to our spiritual development.

Marriage brings us countless blessings, but is met with many obstacles. Busy schedules, the challenges of parenthood, the strains of finances, mortgages, issues of health and aging – all of these test the bonds of even the finest unions. World Marriage Day, observed on the second Sunday of each February, is sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter, associated with Catholic Marriage Encounter.

Many Catholics have participated in a Marriage Encounter weekend, but no matter how we have endeavored to grow in and to support our marriages, or the marriages of those close to us, we know that marriage does take effort, continuing commitment, deep prayer, great communication, a good sense of humor and faithful love. Many parishes celebrate World Marriage Day by the renewal of vows, the celebration of special anniversaries, or even candlelit dinners in the parish hall. Take time this February to celebrate marriage, whether by setting aside a special time to devote to your own spouse, or by honoring the marriages that have warmed you and nurtured you throughout your life.

Reprinted from catholicstewardship.com.



Spring Strings

*A concert by the Wayne State University Strings
under the direction of Professor Kypros Markou
hosted by St. Ambrose Parish.*

Laetare Sunday

March 15th

at 4 p.m.

*The program will include music by
Corelli, Telemann and Vivaldi, plus
Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik,"
Tchaikovsky's "Andante Cantabile" and
Nielsen's "Underlige Aftenlufte."*

*The concert, featuring WSU student
soloists, is free and open to the community.*

Haiti and Africa Relief

St. Paul Paul on the Lake is sponsoring their sixth annual Spaghetti Dinner this Friday, February 13th in their school cafeteria at 170 Grosse Pointe Boulevard in the Farms.

Dinner is served beginning at 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. There will be face painting, pinatas, music, beer and wine, plus a silent auction – all to benefit the missionary efforts of the Haiti and Africa Relief Team (HART). Dinner is \$12 per person and \$5 for children ten and under.

Vincentian Reflection

We have the opportunity to set aside time each day to pray and to set aside some time to serve others in need. When you pray for the poor and suffering, know that you are bringing them the love and peace of Christ. When you serve those in need, you help them see the face of Christ. In our St. Vincent de Paul Conference, we see the face of Christ in those we serve.