

St. Ambrose Parish

Our 99th Year!
MARCH 1, 2015
BEEHIVE

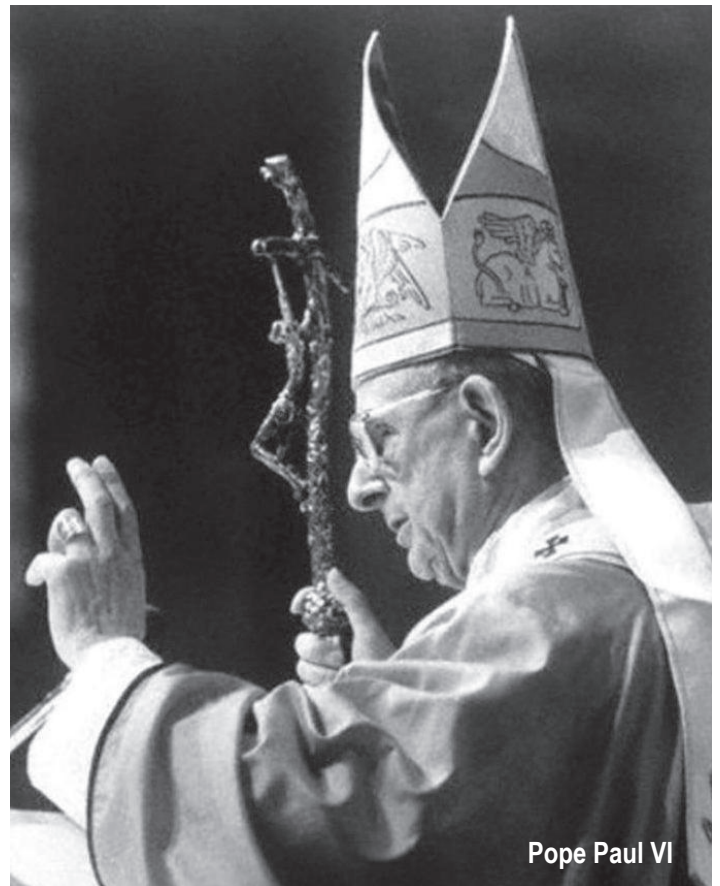
A Liturgy “open to the world”

March 7, 1965, came to be known as Bloody Sunday in the civil-rights movement, as peaceful protesters in Selma, Alabama, were assaulted by police wielding clubs and tear gas. The same day, Pope Paul VI entered All Saints Church in the suburbs of Rome and said Mass in Italian. It was the first vernacular Mass celebrated by a pope in modern times. Pope Francis will mark that 50th anniversary of the first “vernacular mass” later this week.

At first glance, these two events seem to have nothing to do with each other. After all, what difference can it possibly make to the cause of racial justice that Catholics are now permitted to celebrate Mass in the vernacular? It was a big deal for the Catholic faithful and clergy at the time, to be sure. But we’ve gotten used to it. For many, then as now, its value seems to rest in nave and sanctuary and not in the streets. I believe a link exists and is worth considering. The introduction of the vernacular was not only undertaken for the good of the people already within the fold. It was also intended as a pledge and a promise for the Catholic Church to reach out beyond itself, for the sake of its mission. Pope Paul VI said it clearly from the balcony of St. Peter’s on that day: *“The church has made this sacrifice of an age-old tradition [Latin] and above all in unity of language among diverse peoples to bow to a higher universality, an outreach to all peoples.”*

Use of vernacular languages in the liturgy is an outstanding sign of Vatican II’s famous *“opening to the world”*— the world not as a great shopping mall of delights, but as angry and wounded, a despairing world in need of the gospel of compassion and justice and joy. The world of the poor. The world of Selma. In the words of *Gaudium et Spes*, the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World: *“The joys and hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men [and women] of our time, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ.”* Too many Catholics tend to think of the document on the Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, as one end of the spectrum, and *Gaudium et Spes* as the other. They belong together.

Paul VI’s words surely resonated with missionary bishops and others on “the periphery”— the develop-



Pope Paul VI

ing world, churches oppressed under communism, Eastern Rite Catholics – who took part in the debate at the Council. Although they remained respectful of Latin, they were not convinced by the claim that Latin is the great *“sign and psychological agent”* of the Church’s unity. Bishop Franz Simons of Indore, India, for example, pointed out with merciless clarity that Latin, which was supposed to unite, had actually become a source of division: between clergy and laity, between East and West, and between the Church and the world. Patriarch Maximos IV Saigh, leader of the Melkite delegation, famously refused to speak Latin at the Council, preferring to use French as a reminder to the Latin Rite bishops that Latin is not the language of all Catholics. It’s not as though these bishops didn’t prize unity. They did. But they wisely looked to the Holy Spirit to provide it through many

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Open to the World

Continued from page 1

tongues, as the Spirit provided it on the day of Pentecost.

Arguments explaining the shift to the vernacular have so often been pragmatic that I fear we've overlooked the symbolic importance of what we do when we celebrate the liturgy in our own language. The result is a flat, ho-hum account of what the Church is up to. Latin is mystical and interesting. The vernacular? Just words. Besides, if we evaluate the shift to the vernacular only in terms of practicality, the story is over. The goal of a fully vernacular liturgy has been achieved. Taking the vernacular for granted has left the Church vulnerable to efforts to "re-Latinize" our vernacular translations.

We have vernacular liturgy but we may have missed what is most essential about it. Use of vernacular in the liturgy is a matter of mission and evangelization. When Paul VI celebrated the liturgy in Italian, it was a pledge to future generations that the church and her liturgy would lean toward outreach and mission. This is where the growth continues. The Mass Pope Francis will commemorate will be the end point of a long journey; but, more important, it is also a starting point.

A liturgy "open to the world" is not a liturgy without structure or boundaries, but it is one that can extend hospitality to seekers, remove barriers to ecumenism and speak in a language contemporary people can claim, own, and understand. It is a liturgy that takes place in a dynamic relationship with the world around us. For the vernacular languages are not "dead" languages; they continue to change as the communities that speak them change. The vernacular liturgy is a sign that our discipleship must unfold in the world. It is a promise by the Church to be there for the people who actually need us.

By Rita Ferrone for *Commonweal Magazine*, February 23, 2015.



LENTEN BUFFET DINNERS

Join us in the ARK at St. Ambrose
for dinner every Friday in Lent,
now through Good Friday on April 3rd,
from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

\$15 per adult • \$10 for children aged 6 to 10.
Carry-out service available (313) 822-1594.



Buffet Volunteers

In order to keep providing the great dinners that people have become accustomed to, and at the same price, we depend on our parish volunteers to help serve, and clean up after our Lenten meals. Our Confirmation students are already in line to provide great service for these Lenten dinners, but we need adults, too. If you can serve at all or some of the buffets as a volunteer, we'd like to hear from you. Contact our volunteer coordinator, Mary Oberly, at moberly007@comcast.net. "To bus a table" comes from "busboy," an American term, that originated when waiter's helpers were called *omnibus* boys, *omnibus* in this case meaning "having to do many tasks." Our volunteers need to be ready and willing to do an *omnibus* of activities that very well may change from week to week.

From Fr. Phil

Capuchin Fr. Philip Naessens would like to extend a great big thank you to all St. Ambrose parishioners for their cards, prayers, gifts and good wishes during his illness. He wants everyone to know that he appreciates all your kindnesses. He is on the mend and is joining us for Stations of the Cross during Lent. He misses parish ministry a lot and sends God's blessings to all of his friends at St. Ambrose. Check out a great pic of his most recent visit here on our facebook.com/stambroseparish.

Dinner, Drinks & Dogma

St. Ambrose Parish along with Antonio's Restaurant in the Park is sponsoring a group venue for young adults 21 to 39 years old called: "Dinner, Drinks and Dogma". It's a chance to share our Catholic faith in a casual setting where the discussion can flow freely with "no holds barred". Gatherings are held monthly at Antonio's on the first Wednesday of the month. The format revolves around a 7 p.m. start when the group will gather in a private dining room for an interesting conversation about faith. Participants are welcome to arrive early or stay late for a dinner and/or drinks at Antonio's at their discretion. **Our next gathering is this Wednesday, March 4th**. Share the invite with friends, neighbors, co-workers and acquaintances. Spread the word via social networks. You don't have to be a parishioner or even Catholic to attend. Please note that the above age restrictions are very loosely enforced!



All Things Considered

St. Ambrose was a lawyer, or what was equal to one, back in 4th century Roman times. Our parish, under his patronage, is blessed with a number of people in the legal profession. With this in mind I want to suggest two things.

The **FIRST** has to do with the selection for our Book Club this Lent: Jesus on Trial, by **David Limbaugh** who is a practicing attorney and former professor of law. I've asked three members of the legal profession in our parish to critically read this book and to offer their opinions at a meeting of Marcellina's Book Club on Palm Sunday morning in the ARK. I invite all our parishioners, especially those in the legal profession, to join in this discussion that centers around contemporary Christian apologetics. What's the evidence for and/or against Jesus?

The **SECOND** suggestion to members of the legal profession in our parish has to do with a new venture and that is the "**Bee at the Tee**" Golf Outing happening on July 12th. This event has the potential of becoming a significant fund-raiser and great community builder for us.

Oysterfest has been built for the past 25 years on the generosity of the restaurant and beverage industry. "Bee at the Tee" approaches a whole different sector of our parochial demographic. We now look toward members of the legal and real estate professions to step forward in a conjoined effort to support the golf outing, have some fun, and in the process help St. Ambrose Parish.

Brian Satterfield has had this vision for a golf outing for years now. Our Parish Pastoral Council and I give him all the support we can. You should too. Plan on joining us for a day of golf and a nice dinner

afterward. You can sign up starting now. Please consider any sponsorships that you, or your firm can give this event online at planmygolfevent.com/26900-StAmbroseBeeAtTheTee. There are also some paper-copies of the registration, sponsorship and volunteer forms on the back table of the church.

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On this Second Sunday of Lent – for the second Lenten season in a row – we find ourselves in a deficit situation as far as our weekend envelope revenue is concerned. In fact, compared to last year at this time, our weekly envelope shortfall is actually worse by about \$8,000.

Participation in our regular collection is not that strong to begin with, and so when large numbers of the congregation leave on a winter break, or when we get hit with bad weather, it hurts the operations of our parish even more.

I scan the long range weather forecasts during this time of year looking especially at Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. It seems to me that there are an inordinate number of those winter-weekend days that we end up getting clobbered with storms. Lent should be a time when we see more people at mass rather than fewer, but that is not always the case.

After my plea last weekend for an improved weekend collection, it was suggested to me by a member of our Finance Council that we once again run a "**Dent the Deficit**" campaign this Lent as we did last year. Only this time, we should do it on a matching dollar-for-dollar basis.

So, we have secured a \$20,000 pledge toward our weekend envelope collection – redeemable as it is matched by other donor dollars. If you accept this challenge, please use the special DENT envelope you will find in the pews. This Lent, I encourage those who are not in the habit of contributing to the support of our parish, for whatever reason, to please find a way to do so as best you can. Look for a DENT envelope in the pews.

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Since attendance at mass here the past two weekends was low due to the Grosse Pointe Park School's Winter Break, and a weather event called "the Siberian Express," I am going to repeat a portion of my last column which attempts to explain in greater detail the ebb and flow of our parochial finances as the pattern emerges here at St. Ambrose.

"Because the weekly envelope is so undependable, we depend on certain infusions of funds to make budget. The Oysterfest helps cover the envelope shortfall from the Summer. Christmas and the Valentine's Day Party pick up the shortfall from the fall and early winter. Easter and our Golf Outing should give us a boost that hopefully takes us up to the end of our budget year in June. In between these 'bonus times,' finances around here get very tight.

While we had an excellent Christmas collection this year, those funds were already applied in partial payment of items that are not strictly "operational," that is, payment for things that you don't see or services that occur week after week. Examples of this would include our Archdiocesan Assessment (which is \$66,000 annually), Clergy Health (at \$7,800 a year) and Clergy Pension (\$15,600 per annum), health care premiums for our lay employees (which comes to \$62,000 a year), and property and liability insurances which run about \$1,000 a week.) Our cash-strapped Archdiocese allows little or no leeway on these payments. If we want to maintain our parish at the size, level of staff and service you enjoy now, these bills must be paid in a timely fashion. These are whopping big bills that must be paid in addition to salaries, debt payments, utilities and regular operating expenses.

Those 'bonus times,' like Christmas and Oysterfest, are necessary components in meeting a lot of these expenses, but they do not cover them completely, nor do they provide us with a surplus for our week-to-week operations. When we fall \$29,000 below budget in weekly envelope revenue, it's a sign that something is not getting paid.

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. We're planning a great day of golf and socializing at the beautiful Chandler Park Golf Course (chandlerparkgolfcourse.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.

Register now online at planmygolfevent.com/26900-StAmbroseBeeAtTheTee. Or registration, sponsorship and volunteer forms are available in the back of church.

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. Personalize your own sign to celebrate a special event, to thank or remember someone special, or to congratulate a team or a group.

Religious Education Update

Tomorrow night, Monday, March 2nd, we have a Parent-Candidate Meeting for children preparing for Reconciliation and Eucharist. The weather played havoc with our last scheduled meeting so this time we spend together is most important. Students will complete learning regarding Reconciliation and parents will sign them up to receive this sacrament on a Thursday evening or a Saturday afternoon in March.

When that is completed, students will create a communion plate to commemorate their First Communion. We hope the finished product will be ready in time for the Breaking Bread Banquet on Saturday, March 21st.

Betty Haley

Praying Your Life Story

On the weekend of March 6th through 8th, Manresa Retreat House in Bloomfield Hills, MI will be offering a directed retreat for both men and women. Fr. Fran Daly, S.J. will be the retreat master.

This will be the first retreat that Manresa will offer for both men and women in a single group. Members of Church groups who pray together already will find this a unique opportunity to have a retreat experience together – exploring Ignatian themes of The Principle and Foundation, Two Standards, Ignatian Discernment and of course, the Spiritual Exercises.

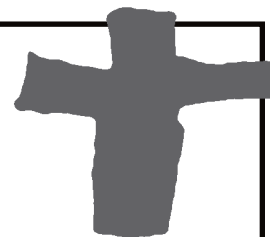
Fr. Daly, the executive director of Manresa, will inaugurate this first “mixed” retreat of its kind, drawing upon his deep well of Ignatian spirituality. Register today by calling (248) 644-4933 or email office@manresa-sj.org

Vincentian Reflection

Lent is a call not just to “give up something” but more importantly to “give something for the poor”. Wherever you live in this parish, there are families in need within walking distance of your home. When they call the parish office for help, they are calling on *you* to help. Your gifts to the St. Vincent de Paul Conference at St. Ambrose ensure that as a parish we can respond with the generosity of Christ to those in need.

Lenten Observances

- Lent is the 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.



The Buzz

Ours is not a bloodthirsty, sadistic God. Some of the Old Testament (and not a few Christian preachers even today) might lead us to think so, but today's first reading from Genesis was specifically meant to show our ancestors-in-Faith that the true God was not like the gods of their neighboring peoples. Pagan fertility religions of the day frequently required the sacrifice of firstborn males to prove to the gods their faith, and thus obtain many more sons and other blessings. The God of Abraham does want faith, but not the killing of anyone to prove it. Our God is different and doesn't act as everyone around expects.

Today's Gospel passage is a traditionally (for the 2nd Sunday of Lent) chosen version of the transfiguration story of Jesus, with Peter, James and John. We all pretty much know how it goes: Jesus dazzles the three disciples while appearing with Moses and Elijah. But I think key to the story is Peter's reaction: he was terrified and "hardly knew what to say," but he blathered something anyway. His response to such a theophany was the norm for religion, namely, let's build some shrines. But the voice from heaven in identifying the "beloved Son" gives a simpler, almost less religious instruction for how to respond: "Listen to him." Our God, Father and Son, are different and don't act as everyone around expects.

Lent is a time of conversion and strengthening of our faith. In the last week and a half, have you caught a vision for how God is inviting you to be transfigured? That's your Lenten destination – to journey up the mountain to be with the "beloved Son". It's never too late to start the quest. And in the steps of prayer, fasting and works of charity, you'll discover that you too are becoming a more dazzling beloved son/daughter of our very different kind of God ... maybe even beyond what everyone around expects of you.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of the best ways the Church has to help us clear our inner ears of faith and listen better to the Lord. There are two scheduled opportunities to do this at St. Ambrose each week: Thursday evenings before the 7:00 mass and on Saturday afternoons before our 4:00 mass.



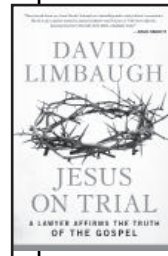
Next Sunday at the 8:30 Mass we will celebrate a special step in the process for those adults who are preparing for Sacraments of Initiation this year at Easter. The ceremony is called a "Scrutiny" as in "*to search or examine thoroughly.*" This prayerful moment, and another two weeks later, is an opportunity for them (and us as well) to intensely confront key aspects of our spiritual conversion. Together we then pray for the divine strength to grow beyond anything that holds us back from complete transfiguration into the life of the risen Christ. Join us next Sunday, if you can, to support them in their journey, and to give thanks for them as reminders to us for how our own faith should look. But if you do plan to attend, make sure you set your clocks ahead an hour the night before; Daylight Savings Time returns next Sunday as well. The sacrifice of an hour's sleep will be worth it; it's Lent for Pete's sake!



Fr. Tim has asked that a small number of men would represent St. Ambrose Parish at a diocesan sponsored event next Saturday morning, March 7th, 8:30–12:30, at St. Philomena's, entitled "Crossing the Goal." This new men's ministry was founded by and will be led by Danny Abramowicz, former NFL all-pro wide receiver. It's close by, breakfast is included and it's free. If you are interested, contact me early this week at the rectory, 822-2814.

Chuck Dropiewski

Marcellina's Book Club



In Jesus on Trial, David Limbaugh applies his legal experience to making a case for the gospels as hard evidence of the life and work of Jesus Christ. Limbaugh, a practicing attorney and former professor of law, approaches the canonical gospels with the same level of scrutiny he would apply to any legal document. Does the story of Jesus that Christians have treasured for centuries stand up to his exhaustive inquiry—including his examination of historical and religious evidence beyond the gospels?

Marcellina's Book Club will meet on Sunday morning, March 29th at 9:45 a.m. in the ARK. Make this book your Lenten reading.

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

Liturgy Schedule for the Coming Week

Monday, March 2

11:00 a.m. - Funeral - Richard Joseph

Tuesday, March 3

St. Katharine Drexel

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Genevieve McAuliffe
Rosanna Tessmer

Wednesday, March 4

11:00 a.m. - Funeral - Bernice Phillips

Thursday, March 5

7:00 p.m. - Mass - Bernadette Belcher
Mr. & Mrs Guy Cuffetelli

Friday, March 6

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Sr. Virginia Ann, S.J.
The William Ogg family

Saturday, March 7

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

Sunday, March 8

Third Sunday of Lent

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



Scriptures for the 2nd Week of Lent

Monday, March 2

- Dn 9: 4b-10
- Ps 79: 8-9, 11, 13
- Lk 6: 36-38

Tuesday, March 3

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

Wednesday, March 4

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

Thursday, March 5

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

Friday, March 6

- Gn 37: 3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a
- Ps 105: 16-21
- Mt 21: 33-43, 45-46

Saturday, March 7

- Mi 7: 14-15, 18-20
- Ps 103: 1-4, 9-12
- Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32

Sunday, March 8

- Ex 20: 1-17 or 20: 1-3, 7-8 12-17
- 1 Cor 1: 22-25
- Jn 2: 13-25

The Third Sunday of Lent

March 7th and March 8th

4:00 p.m. – Saturday – Celebrant: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Pat Ticknor
Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Bennert, Della Cimini, Karen McShane
Altar Servers: Sean Hall, Frankie Pangborn

8:30 a.m. – Sunday – Celebrant: Fr. Pelc **Lector:** Laura Zajac
Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Drummond, Colleen Gatzke, Christopher Harrison, Bernadette Pieczynski, Joellyn Valgoi, Liz & John Witherell
Altar Servers: Jack & Patrick Hern, Blake Hern

11:15 a.m. – Sunday – Celebrant: Fr. Pelc **Lector:** Kurt Vatalaro
Eucharistic Ministers: Anne Billiu, Doris Fleming, Mary Ghesquiere, Jeri & Bob Krueger, Sue & Roger Playwin
Altar Servers: Hannah Piccolo, Shea Vatalaro, Grace Whitaker

Your Envelope ... Speaks the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish requires a *minimum* of \$10,127.00
On Sunday, February 22, 2015

in envelopes we received\$8,015.50
in the loose collection\$674.00
in electronic donations\$1,200.00
in children's envelopes.....\$9.00
for a total of **\$9,901.50**
Under budget for the week \$225.00
FY 14-15 **under** budget **\$29,187.11**
Number of envelopes mailed 800
Number of envelopes used 155

We still struggle to hit our weekly goal. The offerings of just 155 families out of 800 can't sustain our parish operations.

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, Carter Billiu, Bob Ramsey, Fred Schroeder, Ann Sullivan Kay, Mary Pat Egan, Pat Blake, Dominic Centorbi, Irene Scopel, Ray Oberly, Milton Aitchison, Donald & Marilyn Miriani, Kathleen Elbersen, 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.

Jazz Night

St. Matthew's Parish invites you to their 2015 Jazz Night which will take place on Saturday, March 21st from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church Banquet Center on Marter Road in St. Clair Shores.

This fund-raiser for their parish will feature the music of a group called "Heart and Soul." There will be dinner, dancing and an open bar. The price is \$65 for an adult, \$55 for a young adult and \$25 for children. A table of eight can be reserved for \$625. For information and ticket reservations contact the St. Matthew Parish office at (313)882-4470.

Epiphany Education

Our friends, Sister Alice Baker and Sr. Marie Cyril Delisi, IHM, are the forces behind an after-school tutoring center for elementary and middle school students at 5555 Connor in Detroit called the Epiphany Education Center. The operation is funded mainly through donations and an annual fund raiser. This year that will be held on Friday, April 10th from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Activities Building, 3451 Rivard in Detroit. The event will include dinner, a silent auction and entertainment. The cost is \$50 per person. Interested persons may send an email to epipedu@att.net or call (313) 267-1830 for a formal invitation of the event. Please invite your family and friends for an enjoyable evening that will help the sisters and their educational outreach.



Join us on Facebook
facebook.com/stambroseparish

Collection Basket

Inviting newcomers into ministry is good. One of the most profound ways we may bring the spirituality of stewardship to life is through ministry and service. Gathering people in shared ministry leads them into relationship with one another, which leads them more deeply to Christ as disciples and good stewards.

However, one of the most challenging aspects of stewardship ministry for many seems to be increasing participation in outreach and service, so that these vital experiences of Christian discipleship in action become opportunities for more than those already involved.

Reconsider the ways in which we promote participation and welcome newcomers.

Personal invitation is fundamental. So often parish leaders complain about lack of participation, yet when asked if they have invited new people to join them, the response is "it has been in the bulletin." The bulletin is important, but personal invitation is key. People are more likely to respond to people!

Follow-up is essential. How many times have we heard, "I signed up once and no one called me"? The prompt response to and warm welcome of new participants insures that they know their contributions will be valued, and word spreads — they are more likely to bring friends when they know every person is welcome.

Reconnect old friends, and pair newcomers with returnees. It is awkward when it seems to newcomers that everyone else knows each other. While encouraging old friends to reconnect, be intentional about the ways new participants are integrated into the experience.

Invite testimonials. Those who have had powerful experiences of service are the best ambassadors for future participants. Testimonials at the end of Mass and in the bulletin or newsletters speak to the many ways people are touched, from the friendships they made to the ways in which serving leads them to a deeper living faith in Jesus Christ.

Reprinted from catholicstewardship.com.

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.

This year Lent once again includes Friday night Stations of the Cross and our popular Fish Dinners. Try this at least once this Lent: 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.

Good food and grace abounds! Sample a serving of both.

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 may go on vacation. Our parish does not.

Visit stambrosechurch.net for more information on electronic giving, or call our office for personal assistance.



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 Aftenlufter."*

*This free concert, featuring
WSU student soloists, is sponsored by
our St. Ambrose Liturgical Choir.*