

# St. **A**mbrose Parish

*Our 99<sup>th</sup> Year!*  
APRIL 5, 2015  
BEEHIVE

## Transformed by Easter

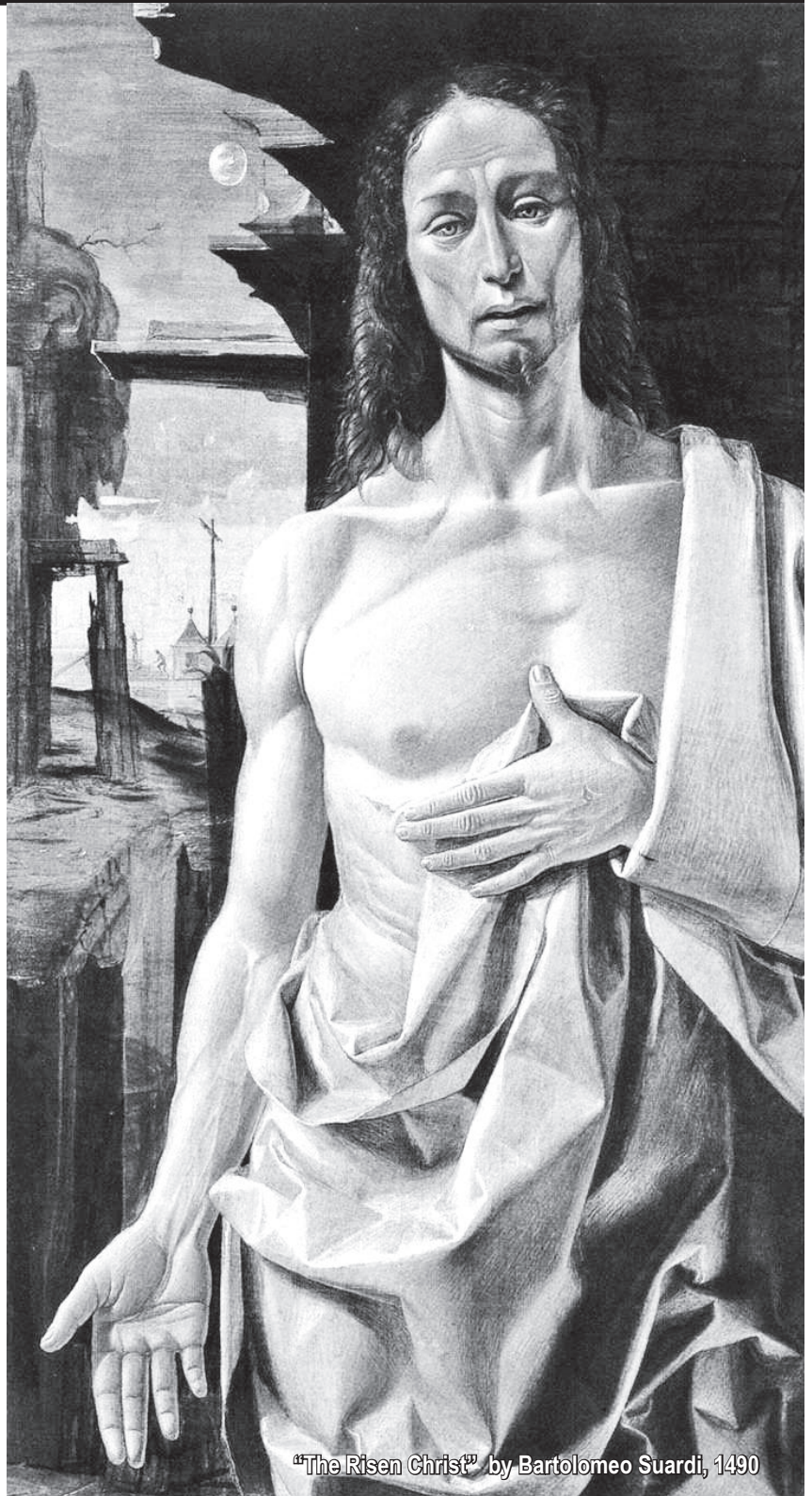
Christian history reaches its crescendo point in the Resurrection of Jesus. The risen Jesus is the final revelation of the heart of God—a God who teaches love rather than hate, forgiveness rather than blame, nonviolence rather than violence.

Recall Jesus' encounters with his disciples following his Resurrection. He comes to the circle of followers with whom he had spent three years, the people closest to him who had nevertheless rejected, betrayed and abandoned him. Following his Resurrection, Jesus has the opportunity to chastise them. And yet, in all four Gospel accounts of the risen Christ we see that Jesus neither berates nor blames his disciples. Indeed, Peter, the disciple who had betrayed him three times, is given three chances to say, "I love you" to his Master.

There is nothing to be afraid of in the risen Jesus. We have in him the perfect icon of a God who is safe and a universe that is safe. We have a God who does not blame, does not punish, does not threaten, does not dominate. We have a God who breathes forgiveness. The whole biblical tradition has been moving to this moment where God is identified with universal forgiveness.

The Resurrection of Jesus tells us that there is no victory through domination. There is no such thing as triumph by force. By his life, death and resurrection Jesus stops the cycle of violence and challenges the notion of dominating power. This is a power that seeks to change things from the top down, from the outside in. Instead, Jesus invites us to relational or spiritual power, where we are not just changed but transformed. And not transformed from the top down but from the bottom up, not from the out-

*Continued on page 2*



"The Risen Christ" by Bartolomeo Suardi, 1490

## Transformed by Easter

*Continued from page 1*

side in but from the inside out. Transformed into God . . .

We see in Jesus the divine being who is also the perfect human being. Jesus comes in a human body to show us the face of God, the One who is eternally compassionate and eternally joyous, who stands with us in our sufferings and our joys. As Christians, our vocation is to unite with both Christ crucified and Christ risen.

*Reprinted from the Every Day Catholic (April 2001) by Richard Rohr, O.F.M., founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque. Visit. americancatholic.org.*

## Vincentian Reflection

Today, as we celebrate the feast of Easter, we encounter the challenge seeing and believing the resurrection that comes through our own lives of self-sacrifice which brings new life to others. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul seeks to show the love of the risen Christ by bringing that love to those who live in fear, doubt, and loneliness. Our chapter of the SVdP Society is assuming more neighborhoods to serve. If you are open to a new challenge and would like to help us bring Christ's love to others, contact the rectory office at 822-2814.

## Put a DENT in Our Deficit

Matching pledge potential.....	\$20,000
Current donations	\$20,801
For a DENT total of.....	\$40,801

Here's where \$20K equals \$40K. Our matching pledge challenge remains active through Easter Sunday. Please be generous and use the special DENT envelopes you can find in the pews. Thans for your help!

## Community Walk

Save Our Children's Future, Detroit Crime Commission and Crime Stoppers are three of the members of a larger coalition of institutions, organizations, and individuals committed to working together to plant and nurture the seeds of reliable safety on our streets, on our playgrounds, at our bus stops and everywhere in-between. This is in hope that we may all live in and leave the shelter of our own homes without fear and without harm.

On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, there will be a Community Unity Walk from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. The route begins at Cadieux and Mack and ends at Alter and Mack. Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan will be in attendance to deliver the keynote speech.

"One person can make a difference, and everyone should try," said John F. Kennedy. We hope you can help these groups make a difference in this corner of town. In support, you can make a financial contribution through their partnership with the Detroit Crime Commission by calling (313) 394-1600 to arrange a gift, just let them know that this is for the Save our Children's Future of Michigan Unity Walk. For more infomation, visit [saveourchildrensfuture.com](http://saveourchildrensfuture.com).

If you want to be part of a unified St. Ambrose delegation in making this walk, call (313) 822-2814 or email [stambrose@comcast.net](mailto:stambrose@comcast.net)

## Electronic Giving

St. Ambrose Parish is equipped to make electronic transfers from your checking account or credit card on our website. Christian Financial Credit Union brings parishioners and friends the ability to make an electronic contribution to St. Ambrose on a regular or on a one-time basis.

Your checking account or credit card may be used to make a single donation; or you may set up automatic weekly, monthly or quarterly contributions on a schedule. Go to [stambrosechurch.net](http://stambrosechurch.net) for more information on electronic giving. Thanks for your generosity.



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

Make plans now to join in the inaugural St. Ambrose Parish golf outing on Friday, June 12, 2015. We're planning a great day of golf and socializing at the beautiful Chandler Park Golf Course ([chandlerparkgolf-course.com](http://chandlerparkgolf-course.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 with dinner, or just for dinner.

Register *now* online at [planmygolfevent.com/26900-St-AmbroseBeeAttheTee](http://planmygolfevent.com/26900-St-AmbroseBeeAttheTee). Registration, sponsorship and volunteer forms are available in the back of church. Questions? Email [st.ambrosegolf@gmail.com](mailto:st.ambrosegolf@gmail.com).

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 Tee sign to celebrate a special event, to thank or remember someone special, or to congratulate a friend, or a group.



# All Things Considered

This weekend we are celebrating the truth that Jesus is alive, and we are doing this in grand fashion at each of our Masses – thanks to days and weeks of work put forth by our parish staff and a small army of volunteers, organized and encouraged by my pastoral associate **Chuck Dropiewski**.

I'm certain that we could get by with less effort, but we "pull out all the stops" because we believe Jesus lives! This is a bedrock truth that we acknowledge each time we gather for Mass every weekend – but there is something extra special about it when we celebrate Easter.

The phrase, "*Pull out all the stops*" comes from organ-playing, where it means to bring into play every rank of pipes, thereby creating the fullest possible sound. This expression has been used *figuratively* since the 1800's when the pipe organ was the instrument that produced the loudest and most varied sounds imaginable at the time. We're also using it *literally* with **Marilyn Biery** and the members of our St. Ambrose Liturgical Choir who have given our prayer an extraordinary splash of loveliness this Easter.

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I want to thank those, who during Lent, offered extra alms toward the operation of our parish. We called this program, "Dent the Deficit" and that is precisely what it helped us do.

Thanks to a \$20,000 matching funds challenge offered by **Paul Lavins**, we were able to turn that into \$40,801. That sum was applied directly to the overdue health-care premiums for our employees and toward a month of property and liability insurance. Would it surprise you that insurance on the parish runs a thousand dollars a week?

I dislike having to use the

holy season of Lent for our own parish charity, so I compliment our Sunday School students for their Lenten support for **Bishop Gumbleton's** medical mission in Haiti. But when we run \$25,000 below budget in envelope revenue at this time of year, as your CFO, I don't see much of a choice other than to make a special appeal. I wish that we could convince more parishioners to use their envelopes or to use electronic giving on a regular basis. My thanks to all who always support St. Ambrose.

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One reason that our budget is so tight is that we are aggressively paying off the loan we took back in 1999 for repairs on our church building; the building of the ARK; and the creation of a parking lot. As you can see by the box score on this page, we have broken below the million dollar level – down from the four million level that it was in 2011. That's great Easter "good news" for us all.

While a \$901,602 debt is still worrisome and substantial, it now looks like that amount can be actually retired by the time we finish our Centennial in 2016. You'll be proud to know that St. Ambrose has one of the best records in loan repayment to our Archdiocese.

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Our goal of developing the convent building for the use of women veterans got a step closer with a recent site visit from **Jeff Barnes**, the Director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency. There is consensus that the building lends itself to the nature of the woman's program that we are proposing – not a surprise since it was originally built as a woman's residence. There is much to do in terms of securing financing for an upgrade to the facility and to identify a program

operator. We're going to get help with this from the Michigan VA Agency.

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The Easter Candle, which was blessed at this Saturday night's Vigil, continues a custom that originated in Jerusalem in the 4<sup>th</sup> century. The practice of dedicating a candle to Christ and sharing the light from that candle went from the Holy Land, to Spain,

France, northern Italy and finally to Rome itself where it eventually got worked into the official rites of Western Christianity.

The Easter Candle, as well as other candles used at mass, remains in use today as a symbol of the resurrected Jesus.

The Easter Candle is dipped into the baptismal font to make that water especially potent. It watches at the altar for 50 days as Christ is made visible in the Scriptures and in the Eucharist. In a smaller version, it stands before the tabernacle in witness to his Real Presence. It is passed to every newly baptized. It's given as a gift to those who receive the first Eucharist. It's light flickers in the dimness of the sick room when the Sacrament of Anointing is given. In some way, shape or form, the Easter Candle is a strong reminder of Christ's presence – not merely an ornament, but vested with a permanent symbolic role in our Catholic prayer.

The *Exsultet* prayer of the Easter vigil asks God to "*accept this candle offering ... the work of bees ... which glowing fire ignites ... a fire into many flames divided ... yet never dimmed ... by sharing of its light, fed by melting wax, drawn out by mother bees to build a torch so precious...*"

This, of course, refers to the tradition of the Catholic Church to use

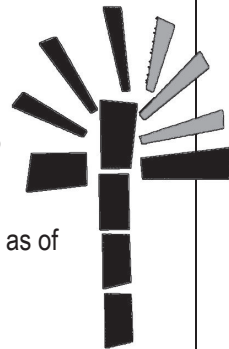
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## Toward the St. Ambrose Centennial 2016

St. Ambrose Building and Renovation Debt as of

January 2011  
\$3,830,668.82

Balance as of February 2015  
\$901,602.88



## All Things Considered

*Continued from Page 3*

actual beeswax for an Easter candle and for other ceremonial candles. Produced by a living bee, this wax carries with it the idea of life, and typifies the spiritual more realistically than candles crafted from mineral oil extracted from the earth.

The way in which bees work in harmony makes them a symbol of how Christians should live in order and peace and have others enjoy the benefits of sweetness of their honey and a light to come.

**Saint Ambrose** of Milan is the patron of beekeepers. A few years ago, **Bernie VanAntwerp** and friends established several beehives on our parish property. We felt that this was a fitting contribution to the ecology of the neighborhood – to urban farms and gardens – as well as a way of supplementing the world-wide crisis of “colony collapse” which has significantly decimated the bee population.

This spring we were again saddened to discover that all seven of our bee hives had died over the winter. This will be the second winter in a row that we have experienced a complete loss of our bee population. While there does not seem to be a single reason for colony collapse, the leading theory is that it is a result of ordinary pesticides that we use in our gardens, lawns and crops. These toxins, imported diseases, coupled with bitterly cold winters, have dire effects on local bees.

So, as we celebrate Easter with our beeswax candle, let’s remember to be better stewards of creation. These dying bees are sending us a serious message.

*“According to the laws of aerodynamics, given the size of its wings and the weight of its body, it is impossible for a bee to fly. But the bee, being blissfully ignorant of this law, manages to do so anyway – and even produces some honey in the process.”*

Easter is the time to affirm the possibility of the impossible.

TRP

## Slice for Life

On Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m., feed your family while supporting the Capuchin Soup Kitchen! The deal is for all the 2-topping pizza and salad you can eat at any of the Metro Detroit Buddy’s Pizza locations. The deal is for dine-in only, but limited carry-outs are available. Tickets: \$15 adults; \$7 children, are available in advance by calling 313-579-2100 ext. 170 or for purchase at a Buddy’s door the day of the Slice for Life offer.

## A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

That first Easter morning was confusing. Jesus was missing and Mary Magdalene, Peter and John “did not know” what to do. In family life there are confusing moments when “we don’t know” what to do. Like the apostles we are Easter people when we believe and trust in each other even when all seems lost.

## Lilo Wendell Memorial Scholarship Fund

High school seniors who are Catholic daughters of single mothers and planning to attend college or university full-time in the 2015-2016 academic year are eligible to apply for the Lilo Wendell Memorial Scholarship Fund. Application forms are now available on the Archdiocese of Detroit website at [aod.org/schools/tuition-assistance-and-scholarships/lilo-wendell-scholarship](http://aod.org/schools/tuition-assistance-and-scholarships/lilo-wendell-scholarship). Completed application forms must be sent to the Archdiocese of Detroit postmarked no later than May 31, 2015.

## Affordable Food Assistance

Deciding between food and medicine? No one should ever have to choose. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a benefit for eligible individuals and families, including seniors. SNAP helps you save on groceries to free up money to pay bills, for medications, and other necessities. Thanks in part to generous support from the Walmart Foundation, Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan (CCSEM) can help residents of Oakland, Macomb, and Wayne counties to find out if they are eligible. Make a confidential call to CCSEM today. 248-338-4250 ext. 3700

## High School Discernment Overnight

Do you have questions about the priesthood? High School is the perfect time to reflect on God’s will for your vocation. On April 10<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup>, the Office of Priestly Vocations is offering a unique experience aimed to help young men, High School Freshman, Sophomores and Juniors, gain a better understanding of the priesthood and life as a seminarian. During this overnight event, attendees will learn about discernment, interact with seminarians, discuss a priestly calling, and spend time in prayer. For more information or to register, please visit [detroitpriest.com](http://detroitpriest.com) or call (313) 868-7040.

## Your Grace is Enough for Me

“Your Grace Is Enough for Me,” is the theme for the 2015 Black Catholic Women’s Conference, which will be held from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Major Seminary on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>.

The conference provides an opportunity for women of faith to come together and support one another through workshops, worship, and prayer experiences that use the gifts and the lens of the African American woman. The 2015 event will feature Kaffy Babineaux Belvin of Lafayette, Louisiana, as keynote speaker, as well as tracks for adults, young adults, and youth. For more information and to register go to [aod.org/bcwc](http://aod.org/bcwc).

## Religious Education Notes

Easter is the great feast of Christianity. The basis of our faith is belief in the Resurrection. If Jesus had not risen from the dead, he would not be the Christ, the Son of God. We profess Jesus to be the Lord of Life precisely because he was able to conquer death and come back to life according to God's plan of salvation through the power of his own divinity. It is a lot to absorb....

The last line of our Gospel says, "For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead." Even his companions – Jesus' closest friends – had a hard time understanding the phenomena of his rising from the dead. They who had been with him for so long still did not know him in his fullness. They would not understand until sometime later when the Spirit came at Pentecost. It is not a wonder that so many in our time cannot or will not believe it either.

The feast of the Risen Christ – Easter – says to us who believe that all that Jesus taught and all that he did while he was with us is endorsed by God. It demonstrates to us in the most meaningful way possible that God is the author of life and it is God who has the final word in everything. It is the Risen Christ who gives us the Spirit to be with us in our time as Jesus was with his disciples in theirs. And yes ... the basis of our faith – the prism with which we view all scripture – lies with our knowledge of and assent to the fact of the Resurrection.

Still, some will not believe. That doesn't mean that there is nothing we can do about it. Peter claims that we can still be "prophets [who] bear witness", and Paul reminds us to "seek what is above" on account of our own faith. If we do this, we will bring the Easter spirit to life in a world that is torn apart by war, suffering, and a deep hunger for truth. We can model for those who sorely need it what it means to have faith in a God who frees us from our greatest despair and raises us time and again from that which would kill us. In word and in deed on account of Easter we can once again sing our own alleluias.

### BIBLE CLUB:

Bible Club is an after-school "club" for the students at Merit Academy (and any parish children who choose to attend) in which we share a biblical theme for several weeks that is expressed through story, activity, craft, and music. It is held twice a year; in the fall and again in winter/spring. Our last session, "Jesus Makes All Things New," explored the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. As it turns out (time and again) what we attempt to bring to these young people in terms of faith is nothing in comparison to what they bring to us.

Thank you so much to George Bush who has been faithful to Bible Club since its inception. He leads the children in song and in movement that ends each session on a "high note". Thank you also to Joanna Maio and to Brendan Labadie who work with me to assist the children in their learning – and in having fun. Although we finished our last session the week before Holy Week, our plans are to resume again in October.

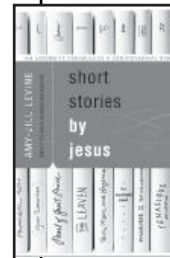
### UPCOMING DATES:

Religious Education is an ongoing endeavor. Here are a few important dates that are scheduled in our parish program:

- ◆ After Easter recess, our regular Sunday School classes for all grades resume on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> in the Academy building from 9:45-11:00 a.m.
- ◆ Formal Celebration of First Eucharist is Saturday, April 25 at 1:30 p.m.
- ◆ Parent-Candidate Session for Confirmation (January - 2016) will be on Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the ARK.
- ◆ Vacation Bible School is scheduled for Monday June 22<sup>nd</sup> through Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> running from 9:30 to Noon. Lots of teen and adult help needed here!

Betty Haley

## Marcellina's Book Club



In Short Stories by Jesus, Amy Jill Levine, a renowned biblical scholar, author of The Misunderstood Jew, and editor for The Jewish Annotated New Testament interweaves history and

spiritual analysis to explore Jesus' most popular teaching parables, exposing their misinterpretations and making them lively and relevant for modern readers.

Levine takes readers back in time to understand how the parables' original Jewish audience understood them.

Marcellina's Book Club will meet on Sunday morning, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m. in the ARK. Make this book your Easter season 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, April 6**

*Office closed - no scheduled services*

**Tuesday, April 7**

8:30 a.m. - Richard & Helen Bennett  
Ray Oberly, John Iwaschina

**Wednesday, April 8**

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

**Thursday, April 9**

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Joni Motto & family  
Carter Kerr, Stella Jantosz

**Friday, April 10**

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Bernadette Belcher  
Rev. Lawrence DesLongchamps,  
Edith Feldman, Sister Elaine

## Second Sunday of Easter

**Saturday, April 11**

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

**Sunday, April 12**

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



## Scriptures for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Easter

**Monday, April 6**

- Acts 2: 14, 22-33
- Ps 16: 1-2a, 5, 7-11
- Mt 28: 8-15

**Tuesday, April 7**

- Acts 2: 36-41
- Ps 33: 4-5, 18-20, 22
- Jn 20: 11-18

**Wednesday, April 8**

- Acts 3: 1-10
- Ps 1-5: 1-4, 6-9
- Lk 24: 13-35

**Thursday, April 9**

- Acts 3: 11-26
- Ps 8: 2ab, 5-9
- Lk 24: 35-48

**Friday, April 10**

- Acts 4: 1-12
- Ps 118: 1-2, 4, 22-27a
- Jn 21: 1-14

**Saturday, April 11**

- Acts 4: 13-21
- Ps 118: 1, 14-15ab, 16-21
- Mk 16: 9-15

**Sunday, April 12**

- Acts 4: 32-35
- 1Jn 5: 1-6
- Jn 20: 19-31

# Second Sunday of Easter

*April 11<sup>th</sup> and April 12<sup>th</sup>*

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

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Della Cimini, Elizabeth Puleo-Tague, Mary Helen Quigg-Hillyer

**Altar Servers:** Frankie Pangborn, Julianna Tague

**8:30 a.m. - Sunday - Celebrant:** Fr. Bede **Lector:** Norman Cure

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Christopher Harrison, Joan Jackson, Maggie Jackson,  
Liz & Steve Linne, Karen McShane, Bernadette Pieczynski

**Altar Servers:** Diego & Emilio Garcia, Delaney Jackson

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

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Thomas Bennert, Anne Billiu, Mary Ghesquiere,  
Sue Playwin, Janis Ramsey, Darryl Swiatkowski, Cynthia Warner

**Altar Servers:** Conor, Delaney, & Brian Garvey; Ella Chamberlain

## Your Envelope ... Speaks the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish requires a *minimum* of ..... \$10,127.00

**On Sunday, March 29, 2015**

in envelopes we received .....\$11,115.00  
in the loose collection \$1,027.00  
in electronic donations .....\$1,200.00  
in children's envelopes.....\$53.00  
for a total of .....**\$13,395.00**

**Over budget for the week .. \$3,268.00**

Number of envelopes mailed ..... 800  
Number of envelopes used ..... 221

*Please use the offertory envelopes that have been mailed to you. Or sign up for electronic giving. Thanks to everyone who gave to the "dent" campaign which put us back on budget.*

## 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, Carter Billiu, Fred Schroeder, Ann Sullivan Kay, Mary Pat Egan, Pat Blake, Dominic Centorbi, Irene Scopel, Ray Oberly, Milton Aitchison, Donald & Marilyn Miriani, Kathleen Elbersen, Maureen Barron-Brioc, Ginger Weiksnar, Laura Bush Terry, Lennie O'Brien, Maryjane Cullen, Bp. Joseph Imesch, Andrew Chavez, Angela Hansen., Barbara Mann, Elizabeth Robert, Bernadette Gutowski and Dan Fleming.

## Spring Cleaning for a Good Purpose

It's time to empty out your closets, and organize your attics and basements. Our St. Ambrose St. Vincent de Paul Society's "Bundle Weekend" is planned for Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.

To save you a trip to a donation center, a pod will be located in our parking lot to collect your items.

The SVdP is always in need of clean clothing in good condition; household items especially for the kitchen; tables and chairs; and practical pieces of furniture. Appliances, such as washers/dryers, stoves/refrigerators in good working order, are quickly relocated to households in need. There is also an ongoing need for clean mattresses and bed frames.

Organize your donations now for drop off on that last weekend in May. Items can always be dropped off earlier at any SVdP store. Thanks for helping us help others.



## Mass Times When Traveling

Your membership to the Catholic Church gives you privileges to worship in any Catholic Community world wide. While on your vacation or traveling, websites like [masstimes.org](http://masstimes.org) and [thecatholicdirectory.com](http://thecatholicdirectory.com) makes it easy to find a mass wherever you are.



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

## The Collection Basket

*St. Ambrose Parish is now using a different procedure for the Offertory Collection at our weekend Masses. Baskets are now “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 for each of us at this moment in the Liturgy. Catholics are allowed to receive Holy Communion with their hands. How appropriate is it, therefore, 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!*

## The Experience of Easter

In the Easter Vigil reading from Saint Paul’s letter to the Romans, we are reminded that we are “alive” in Christ. And it is not merely once a year that we remember what Jesus did to give us this new life, forgiveness and peace. Every day good stewards remember their baptism. They remember that they are united with Jesus in his death; that daily they drown the old sinful nature, and that daily they rise to their new life in Christ. Let us be mindful every day, especially when we are troubled by life or tempted by sin, that our lives are no longer about us, but about Christ’s active, loving presence within us.

That is our baptism. The tomb is empty! Jesus Christ has risen today! Our Savior is active, alive, and transforming us and our communities of faith, even the world, at this very moment. Easter is a time of joy, a time of celebration. To have faith in the risen Lord is also to believe that we are disciples who bear witness to Christ in a broken and troubled world. To be good stewards of this faith obliges us to be living witnesses to Christ’s peace at home and in public. Jesus cannot be found buried. He is risen. Alleluia!

We are an Easter people. The joy of Easter is celebrated not only during the liturgical season we call “Easter.” It is celebrated every day of the year. The Mass is the Paschal Mystery, and every time it is celebrated, we participate in the sacrifice, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. As St. Paul teaches, we die with Christ and rise with Him in the Holy Spirit. We are transformed into new creations. We are renewed.

Stewards of God’s abundant gifts hold dear the promise of renewal and pledge themselves to the work of reconciliation, healing and proclamation of the risen Lord. For Christian stewards, each day is a new dawn for living in the light of Christ. There is much about dying and rising with Christ that we do not know; much about the Paschal Mystery we do not understand. But stewards of God’s love are always open to learning more; to being called out of their ignorance and into the light of faith which comes with an ever-deeper understanding of its peace and joy.

Easter is a good time to learn more about your faith and to reflect on how we experience the joy of Christ’s peace. It is also a time to ask ourselves how we can experience the gift of Easter each day of our lives.

Reprinted from catholicstewardship.com.



*Welcome to St. Ambrose!*

*St. Ambrose Parish continues to grow, not only in spirit, but also in numbers. On behalf of our parish community, now into its 99<sup>th</sup> year of existence, we warmly welcome all those who have newly registered with us since we last celebrated the great feast of Easter.*

**Nicholas Adams** on Beaconsfield in the Park; **Brock and Priscilla Barczyk** on Berkshire in the Park; **Anthony and Catherine Biondo** on Westchester in the Park; **Matthew and Stephanie Blevins** on Anita in the Woods; **Carl and Kristen Caballero** on Westchester in the Park; **Daniel and Mary Card** on Ridgemont in the Farms; **Steven and Caitlin Card** on Westchester in the Park; **George and Kevette Chapman** on Lakepointe in the Park; **Ben Commerson** on Doremus in St. Clair Shores; **Claudette Darga** on Woodland in Harper Woods; **Robert and Stephanie Denvir** on McKinley in the Farms; **Jeffrey and Heather Dinverno** on Whittier in the Park; **Paul and Canice Doherty** on Berkshire in the Park; **Donald and Maryann Fitzgibbon** on Pointe Park Place in the Park; **John Giordano and Irene Correi** on Country Club in the Woods; **Sarah Hartner** on Shady Lane in St. Clair Shores; **Kevin and Rachel Hock** on Kerby in the Farms; **Marlene Joseph** on Lochmoor in the Woods; **Stephen and Jessica Justin** on Wayburn in the Park; **Joseph Kennedy** on Little Road in Clinton Twp.; **Matthew and Rebecca Labadie** on Ridgemont in the Farms; **David and Ann Marie Legato** on Lakeshore in St. Clair Shores; **Mary Lentz** on Buckingham in the Park; **Kara Makino** on Hollywood in the Woods; **Robert and Emily McManus** on Roslyn in the Woods; **Eric and Stephanie Niesch** on Middlesex in the Park; **Lennie O’Brien** on Lakepointe in the Park; **Mark and Joyce Olstyn** on Cadieux in Grosse Pointe City; **Sarah Rahaim and Matthew Griffith** on Marter in St. Clair Shores; **Giuseppe and Elizabeth Perrotta** on Colonial Road in the Shores; **Jeannine and Falgun Rathod** on Hawthorne in the Shores; **Megan Reddicks** on Oakshire in Berkley; **Brandon Smarsh** on Fifth Street in Mt. Clemens; **Frank and Kelly Soave** on Anita in the Woods; **Grace Spear** on Country Club in the Woods; **Brian and Michelle Stackpoole** on Balfour in the Park; **Richard and Christi Stepanski** on Beaconsfield in the Park; **Teddy and Tammy Tedesco** on Devonshire in the Park; **Joe and Julie Van Marcke** on Moran in the Farms; **Maciej and Trista Wdziekonski** on Bedford in the Park; and **Barbara Whotte** on Nine Mile in Eastpointe.