

WORD, SACRAMENT and CHARITY

Who is a Deacon?

A deacon is an ordained minister of the Catholic Church. There are three groups, or “orders,” of ordained ministers in the Church: bishops, presbyters and deacons.

Deacons are ordained as a sacramental sign to the Church and to the world of Christ, who came “to serve and not to be served.” The entire Church is called by Christ to serve, and the deacon, in virtue of his sacramental ordination and through his various ministries, is to be a servant in a servant-Church.

What are the “various ministries” of a Deacon?

All ordained ministers in the Church are called to functions of Word, Sacrament, and Charity; but bishops, presbyters and deacons exercise these functions in various special ways. As ministers of Word, deacons proclaim the Gospel, preach, and teach in the name of the Church. As ministers of the Sacraments, deacons baptize, lead the faithful in prayer, witness marriages, and conduct wake and funeral services.

As ministers of Charity, deacons are leaders in identifying the needs of others, then marshaling the Church’s resources to meet those needs. Deacons are also dedicated to eliminating the injustices or inequities that cause such needs. But no matter what specific functions a deacon performs, they flow from his sacramental identity. In other words, it is not only WHAT a deacon does, but WHO a deacon is, that is important.

Why do some Deacons become priests?

For many years ordained ministers “ascended” from one office to another, culminating in ordination to the presbyterate, or priesthood. The Second Vatican Council (1962 – 1965), however, authorized the restoration of the diaconate as a permanent order of ministry. So, while students for the priesthood are still ordained deacons prior to their ordination as priests, today there are more than 13,000 deacons in the United States alone who minister in this Order permanently. There is no difference in the sacramental sign or the functions between these so-called “transitional” and “permanent deacons.”

May married men be ordained Deacons?

Yes. The Second Vatican Council decreed that the diaconate, when it was restored as a permanent order in the hierarchy, could be opened to “mature married men,” later clarified to mean men over the age of 35. This is in keeping with the ancient tradition of the Church, in which married men were ordained into ministry. In one way or another, celibacy affects every deacon, married or unmarried. In keeping with ancient practice is the expectation that while a married man may be ordained, an ordained man, if his wife should die, may not marry again without special permission.

Ordained for the Parish or the Diocese?

Whenever a person is ordained, he is to serve the diocesan Church. Deacons are no different in this regard: they are assigned by the bishop to ministries for which the bishop perceives a great need, and for which the deacon may have special gifts or talents. Most often, this will be within a parish setting, just as most priests serve in a parish. Once assigned to the parish, the deacon, and any other clergy assigned to the parish, minister under the immediate supervision of the pastor. However, this assignment could be changed at the request of the deacon or the initiative of the bishop.

What is the difference between a Diocesan and a Religious Order Priest (Deacon)?

A religious order priest or deacon belongs to a community of men bound together by faith and the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Poverty means that they do not own things individually but rather as a group; chastity means that they refrain from sexual activity and do not marry; obedience means that, after appropriate consultation, they do what their superiors ask them to do.

It is not necessary to be a priest or a deacon to be a member of a religious order; those who are not priests are called brothers. The priests and brothers of a religious community may engage in any kind of work for the Church and the good of humanity; they often specialize in certain kinds of work such as education, work with the sick or poor, and service in the foreign missions.

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Word, Sacrament and Charity

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A diocesan priest does not make the solemn vows that religious priests (and religious deacons, brothers and sisters) make, but he does make similar promises. Perhaps the most striking difference between him and a religious order priest is that the diocesan priest lives a life more like that of his people: for example, he buys his own clothes and car, he pays taxes, he may own personal property. That is why a diocesan priest is sometimes called a “secular” priest (from the Latin *saeculum*, a word that means roughly “this world of time and space in which we live”).

A diocesan priest belongs to the body of priests (called the presbyterate) of a local diocese, which is assigned within a particular territory within a state or country.

A religious order priest (such as the Benedictines, the Dominicans, or the Franciscans) takes the vows of that order. Each order has a particular spirituality and set of charisms. A charism is a gift that they give to the Church and to the world.

Here are some common characteristics of religious order priests. They take vows of celibacy, obedience, and poverty (they do not own anything and share what they have with their fellow brothers). Religious brothers who are not ordained also take these vows.

They take special vows of the religious order, if they exist. For example, the Benedictines take the vow of stability, by which they vow themselves to a specific community. The Jesuits take a special vow of obedience to the pope for special missions.

Religious order priests are assigned to a specific ministry by the order’s Superior/Provincial. Often they may be assigned to serve a parish; however, many serve in administration, sacramental care outside a parish, a particular mission or apostolate, or education. In each case, “faculties” to exercise the sacraments in the location of their assignment must always be approved and granted by the local diocesan bishop.

How do I find out more about becoming a Deacon?

The best place to start is with your pastor, who can put you in touch with the Director of Deacons for your diocese. The Director will be able to outline the various requirements and processes to be followed. General information about vocations to the priesthood and diaconate can be found at:

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations
3211 4th St. NE
Washington DC 20017
Phone: (202) 541-3033
E-Mail: clergy@usccb.org
Web: <http://www.usccb.org>

How do I find out more about Religious Order Priests?

Begin by contacting a member of the particular religious order who will then give you specific information about their particular group. If you want to survey the major orders working or emanating from the US, contact:

The National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC)
5420 S. Cornell Ave., Suite #207
Chicago, IL 60615-5604
Phone: (773) 363-5454
E-Mail: [nrvc@nrvc.net](mailto:nrvcc@nrvc.net)
Web: www.nrvc.net

From Our Deacon

My name is Tom Nguyen. I recently just was ordained to the diaconate on June 6th. I am so grateful for the love and support of all my family and friends who have walked with me on the journey of my discernment as a Capuchin Franciscan. I am especially grateful for the gift of the brothers and our life in fraternity within the Order. The brothers have inspired, challenged and loved me in ways that has shaped my heart and mind to be God’s instrument of love. I look forward to the gift of ministry as an ordained minister and open my life to how the People of God and the Holy Spirit will continue to shape and form me as I serve the Church in new and life-giving ways!

I simply want to be with people and I am very excited about the ministry as a deacon at St Ambrose and the Solanus Center! I have already received a warm welcome from the Staff and Fr. Tim. My heart is filled with joy and gratitude. The Lord has truly blessed me with such a wonderful community of disciples at St. Ambrose and I know I will be transformed in so many ways by the beauty of each person and heart that I will encounter.

Ordination for me is about service and being an instrument of God’s Love. I hope that during my time with you at St. Ambrose I will truly grow in the depths of what it means to be an instrument of love and be able to walk with you in the story of our faith.

A few things about me: I love FOOD, PEOPLE, and GOD! I think that’s why I am a Capuchin Franciscan! I am also a musician and I am always striving to get better at it. This is also my first time living in Detroit and I have no idea where to go. So I’m hoping that the wonderful people here at St. Ambrose will be kind enough to show me places to visit while I’m assigned here in this city and reach out so that we can be wonderful friends! Please pray for me as I grow and become an instrument of God’s Love and serve the Church.

Deacon Tom

All Things Considered



Deacon Tom Nguyen

We share **Deacon Tom Nguyen's** ministerial time with the **Solanus Casey Center**, so he will not be available to our parish on certain days and times. This brings me to something practical – how to pronounce “Nguyen.” His dad, who is from Viet Nam, told me that the Asian pronunciation of their family name is “**Win.**” In trying to remember that, think of this: St. Ambrose shares the Deacon with the Solanus Center, so it’s a **Win/Win** situation for both of us!

A native born Texan, Deacon Win... I mean Nguyen... is new to our State. I trust that you will be promoters for a “Pure Michigan.” As an initiation, he definitely needs to get out on Lake St. Clair in a sail boat...soon.

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Deacon Tom’s first preaching assignment here is this weekend. But from what I have already observed, he already has abilities in this area.

I ran across this in a letter to the editor printed in Touchstone Mag-

azine this past spring. It is by someone calling him/herself as **S.M. Hutchens**. He/she wrote: *“Unless he has a special unction or an extraordinary gift, it takes a trained and intelligent man about twenty hours of labor in study, meditation, and self-examination to produce a workmanlike sermon, whether he preaches for ten minutes or an hour.*

When I tell people this, the only ones who believe me seem to be the few who actually produce them. Most lay people do not believe it because they are used to homilies over which the priest or minister very obviously has taken few mental or spiritual pains, thus starving the thoughtful, boring the rest, maintaining their congregations as spiritual nurseries and taking none of the risks involved in stirring up the wolves by preaching and teaching Christian doctrine.

Surely there must be a “Purgatorium Pastorum” where priests should have to go listen to themselves drivel on about whatever inconsequentialities or observations have entered their brains ten minutes before Mass. This Catholic ordeal should be carried on in proximity to the Judgment Seat of Christ, where the more righteously prolix Protestant vendors of pious gas and tribal boilerplate get their own comeuppance.”

This may be a little bloviated. I’d hope for more mercy for preachers – bad and good – at judgement day. Yet, on the observation that it takes about 20 hours to prepare an intelligent homily, this critic may be correct.

While I am not in the ranks of those preachers who actually spend 20 hours in every week’s homily preparation, I have known one or two who regularly do. Their homilies are always astounding and soul stirring. For the rest of us, operating in a lesser category, I will say that a preacher has to be willing to devote time to preparation, and that his congregation has to afford him the time to prepare. Study, meditation and self-examination are not luxuries, but essentials.

Preachers do not improve unless they have access to honest feedback. We need to know when something hits home and when something dribbles into an infield ground-ball. It’s my observation that after 30 years of preaching here, Ambrosians are quite open to telling me what worked for them and what did not. I appreciate that. Think of it as saving me from having to spend time in purgatory listening to my own “pastoral drivel.”

Preaching is as much a skill as an art. While Deacon Nguyen is with us, he’ll be honing both. In this area, please give him – and all of us who preach here at St. Ambrose – your critical ears and constructive criticism.

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This Wednesday would ordinarily be the regular day for our **Dinner, Drinks and Dogma** program at Antonio’s Restaurant. But we’re going to take a summer break this month as I turn the leadership of that program over to our Deacon intern. He has experience in this program while he served at Old St. Patrick’s Parish in Chicago. He is certainly closer in age to the demographic for which this outreach is intended – 18 to 35 year olds.

In this regard, the Deacon is assembling a steering group of young people from the parish who will reshape the day, time, place and format of our Dinner, Drinks and Dogma night.

I think a return to the original name – **Theology on Tap** – might be warranted as a signal of a fresh start. Since its creation in the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1981, Theology on Tap has proven to be a successful vehicle for reaching young adults interested in learning more about their faith, coming together to share community, and feeling welcomed and valued in the Catholic Church. We own a Theology on Tap franchise and rights to the name. We need a strong program like this on our end of town.

Check out the Theology on Tap program at renewtot.org. Then connect with Deacon Tom.

TRP



Name

Home Phone

Work Phone

Email Address

- I would simply like to learn more about the Catholic Faith.
- I desire to prepare for my Baptism into Christianity.
- I've been Baptized as a Christian and now desire to join in Catholic Communion.
- I'm non-Catholic, but married to a Catholic, and now wish to join the Catholic Church.
- I'm Catholic and I would like to complete my initiation into the Catholic Church by celebrating Confirmation and/or Communion.
- I'm Baptized Catholic and would like to learn more about my faith and how to practice it.
- I want to propose someone for Catholic Church membership and offer to serve as their sponsor.
- I would be willing to help with an R.C.I.A. program.
- I have other needs, requests, and questions. Please contact me.

Return this to the Parish Rectory or place it in the Collection basket.

Religious Education Update

This week letters will be going out to our Confirmation candidates and their families that will include the fall schedule for 9th graders. In addition to the Confirmation Retreat, Called to Serve workshop, and Rite of Inscription (followed by the Sponsor-Candidate Reflection in the ARK), candidates attend seven Sunday classes at Merit to prepare them for the sacrament of Confirmation. Those Sundays are: October 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th; November 1st, 8th, and 22nd.

Also, I received the following information from the Archdiocese of Detroit: “The Knights of Columbus in conjunction with the Diocese of Lansing, the Diocese of Saginaw, and the Archdiocese of Detroit are planning a Catholic College Night at Cleary University in Howell, Michigan. For information call Gary at (810) 599-4507 or gdell4@comcast.net

Continue to enjoy the summer!

Betty Haley

Pipe Dreams

Pipe organs are crammed into chambers that utilize every inch of space, giving tuners access to the pipes, but often necessitating that only a person of small stature can enter the chamber to tune or adjust a pipe. Recently one of our largest ranks (each row of pipes is called a rank, and has a different sound or timbre) developed what we call a “cipher.” A cipher is when a pipe continues to sound after the organist has stopped playing the key that controls it. Ciphers can be caused by dirt in the mechanism or failed leather, and they have a troublesome way of only happening during important liturgies or concerts.

Our “Open Diapason” (found in the pedal division) is very loud. Its cipher, which has disrupted several masses recently, could not be made to happen in front of the organ technician, who then could not diagnose how to fix it. So, I made the decision to stop the pipe from sounding altogether until the technicians could fix the problem. With the help of Sue Dropiewski, who provided several small hand towels, I was able to wedge myself into the pipe chamber to find the offending pipe. I stuffed a towel inside the mouth, therefore keeping the air in the pipe from playing the note – a common fix, used frequently in emergency situations. If you listen closely near the organ you can hear the air hissing through the pipe, but for now, the loud note will not disrupt any more worship at St. Ambrose!

Marilyn Biery

Vincentian Reflection

Gospel living is something so simple as taking time to listen to those who need to spill out their hearts when seeking help from us. Through your support of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Group here at St. Ambrose you enable our members to become a “listening heart” to the hungry, the homeless and those struggling to live in poverty. Sometimes all it takes is a listening heart to see the face of Christ in those we serve.

22nd Annual Benefit on the Bay

Support the Capuchin Soup Kitchen by attending the 22nd Annual Benefit on the Bay, on Friday, August 21st, at 5:30 PM, at MacRay Harbor on Lake St. Clair. Music is by John Dickson & the “C-Notes,” “The Key Suspects,” and special musical guests, the “Capuchin Soup Kitchen Choir!” One hundred percent of the event’s profit benefits the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Tickets are \$65 per person which includes appetizers, dinner, dancing, beer, wine, and desserts. There will be both a live auction and a silent one, the latter featuring over 100 items. For advance tickets call: (313) 579-2100 ext. 153. CSKDetroit.org

The Buzz

Happy August! It is really difficult to believe that we are into the eighth month of the year already. As one gets older, and especially when one lives by deadlines, time seems to pick up speed. True for you too?

We are more than half way through the calendar year, and almost half way through the summer. This weekend's Liturgy reminds us that it's a good time to stop and see how our faith is doing. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians confronts us with the question: are we really any different from the rest of the world around us because of our communion with Christ?

And in today's first scripture reading from Exodus, the Israelites out in the desert grumbled like anyone naturally would about their hunger. God pointed out the survival provisions that bedouin people had always known to be present in nature. Manna was not miraculously delivered loaves of already-baked bread, much less communion-style wafers as some artists have depicted.

Over the years I have particularly enjoyed a local scripture scholar's "translation" of the word "manna." Rather than the holy, religious connotation that has been handed on to us, the original use of the word "manna" meant something more like "whatchamacallit". The people just needed a new practical understanding to survive physically, and they needed a new religious understanding to survive spiritually.

Jesus in today's Gospel from John puts it all into a bigger picture perspective. Every hunger will only find ultimate fulfillment in God ... and God is happy to oblige. Does your faith and mine really see things in a new way and believe it? Or do we just grumble? What do you most hunger and thirst for in 2015? What will satisfy you? August is a good time to pray about and answer these questions.



The next two weeks are chock-full of special days on the Church's calendar. This Tuesday is the feast day of St. John Vianney, a simple faith-filled guy, who lived during some of the most turbulent times in French history. His humble priesthood in the little town of Ars propelled him to be recognized as the patron saint of all parish priests. Sometime this week, pray for your parish priest and for all priests. I know they do the same for you.

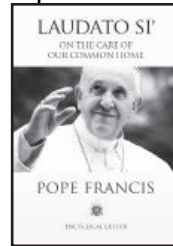
Thursday is the feast of the Transfiguration. It also marks the anniversaries of the first use of an electric chair for capital punishment in the U.S. (1890) as well as of an atomic weapon against an enemy country at Hiroshima, Japan (1945). With all the hatred and fighting going on in the world, maybe we can pray today to have a "Transfiguring" experience with a renewed vision of Christ in the glorious communion of peace and joy we are all meant to have as children of one and the same God. Better than just grumbling about politics!

Next Saturday is the feast day of St. Dominic. It's a good day to give thanks for the educational heritage given to this parish by the many members of the religious community that bears the name of this patron saint.

On Monday the 10th we celebrate the feast day of St. Lawrence. He is the patron saint of deacons and the poor. But, get this, he is also the patron of cooks and comedians! Why? The legend goes that during a Roman persecution he and other deacons were captured along with the pope. Lawrence was sentenced to death by fire on a gridiron. The story has it that while being roasted alive, he quipped to his executioners something like "Turn me over; I'm done on this side." Share some uplifting humor this week with someone who needs it. And do be kinder than the Romans to our new **Deacon Tom**. He may be hot stuff, but that's because of the fire of the Holy Spirit inside him!

August is a great time to be Catholic,
Chuck Dropiewski

Marcellina's Book Club



We are recommending Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si', On the Care for Our Common Home* for your summer reading. In this encyclical, Pope Francis follows and expands on

Catholic teaching on mankind's responsibility to care for God's creation, and protect and care for the most vulnerable. This letter builds on the teachings of previous popes including Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Pope Saint John Paul II.

It is available in print form as well as in multiple online editions such as at vatican.va.

Later this year, we will host a Sunday morning series examining this encyclical in greater detail.

The Beehive

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

Pastor: Rev. Timothy R. Pelc

Deacon: Rev. Mr. Thomas Nguyen, ofm, cap

Pastoral Minister: Charles Dropiewski

Religious Education: Elizabeth Haley

Minister of Music: Marilyn Biery

Office Manager: Lois Sokolowski

Sacramental Celebrations

Masses: On the Lord's Day –

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.

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

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

Penance: As announced and by appointment.

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

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

Directory

Parish Office: 15020 Hampton

Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230

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

Email address: stambrose@comcast.net

Religious Education: (313) 822-1248

Ark Scheduling: (313) 822-2814

Parish Website: stambrosechurch.net

Liturgy Schedule for the Coming Week

Monday, August 3

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Tuesday, August 4

St. John Vianney, priest

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Felix Checki,
The Henige Family

Wednesday, August 5

Dedication of the Basilica St. Mary Major

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Thursday, August 6

The Transfiguration of the Lord

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Alex Peabody
Gene & Dee Schoenich;
Suzanne, Delia and Katherine

Friday, August 7

St. Sixtus II, pope & companions, martyrs

St. Cajetan, priest

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Jacob Magnotta
Sister Bertha, Jill Kramar

Saturday, August 8

St. Dominic, priest

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

Sunday, August 9

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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



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Scriptures for the 18th Week in Ordinary Time

Monday, August 3

- Nm 11: 4b-15
- Ps 81: 12-17
- Mt 14: 13-21

Tuesday, August 4

- Nm 12: 1-13
- Ps 51: 1, 3-7, 12-13
- Mt 14: 22-36 or 15: 1-2, 10-14

Wednesday, August 5

- Nm 13:1-2, 25-14:1,26-29a,34-35
- Ps 106: 6-7b, 13-14, 21-23
- Jn 15: 21-28

Thursday, August 6

- Dn 7: 9-10, 13-14
- 2 Pt 1: 16-19
- Mk 9: 2-10

Friday, August 7

- Dt 4: 32-40
- Ps 77: 12-16, 21
- Mt 16: 24-28

Saturday, August 8

- Dt 6: 4-13
- Ps 18: 204 47, 51
- Mt 17: 14-20

Sunday, August 9

- 1 Kgs 19: 4-8
- Eph 4: 30-5: 2
- Jn 6: 41-51

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time August 8th and August 9th

4:00 p.m. – Saturday – Celebrant: Fr. Pelc Lector: Elizabeth Puleo-Tague

Eucharistic Ministers: Peter Hern, Ron Hoffman, Karen McShane

Altar Servers: Sean Hall, Frankie Pangborn

8:30 a.m. – Sunday – Celebrant: Fr. Bede, Dn. Nguyen Lector: Steve Peck

Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Drummond, Colleen Gatzke, Christopher Harrison,

Joan Jackson, Maggie Jackson, Bernadette Pieczynski

Altar Servers: Delaney Jackson, Joseph & Nicholas Kurta

11:15 a.m. – Sunday – Celebrant: Fr. Pelc, Dn. Nguyen Lector: Grace Muawad

Eucharistic Ministers: Beverly Bennert, Anne Billiu, Mary Ghesquiere,

Janis Ramsey, Darryl Swiatkowski, Cynthia Warner

Altar Servers: Liam O'Byrne, Hannah Piccolo, Shea Vatalaro

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

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

On Sunday, July 26, 2015

in envelopes we received \$7,353/00

in the loose collection \$462.00

in electronic donations \$1,200.00

in children's envelopes \$6.00

for a total of **\$9,021.00**

Under budget for the week \$1,079.00

Number of envelopes mailed 800

Number of envelopes used 137

*While we go on vacation, our parish does not.
Support the parishes where you worship this
Summer, but don't forget your home parish.
To give electronically go to stambrosechurch.net*

Our Sick

Please pray for our parishioners who are seriously ill or hospitalized:

Roma Affelt, Kay Balas, Peyton Barron, Carter Billiu, Pat Blake, Laura Bush, Dominic Centorbi, Andrew Chavez, Maria Chinchilla, Maryjane Cullen, Karen Culver, Mary Pat Egan, Kathleen Elberson, Dan Fleming, Mary Ellen Greenup, Bernadette Gutowski, Angela Hansen, Elizabeth Howard, Bp. Joe Imesch, Ann Sullivan Kay, Katherine Brennan Lee, Barbara Mann, Donald & Marilyn Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Joseph MacEachern, Mary Myers, Jeanne Noto, Lennie O'Brien, Ray Oberly, Elizabeth Robert, Bob Ramsey, David Schumacker, Irene & Bryan Scopel, Fred Schroeder, Matthew Elias, Susan Bucec, Janice Dropiewski Mason and Scott Nedoff.

Our Dead

On Friday, July 24th a funeral liturgy was celebrated by Fr. Pelc assisted by Dn. Tom Nguyen for **Maureen Quinn Sklut**, age 81.

Maureen was born in County Antrim, Northern Ireland and came to the United States as a young lady to work for her uncle. She later worked at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn as food manager.

She met her husband, Bill, in 1964, married, and together they raised a family on the east side. Maureen enjoyed traveling to Florida and Port Sanilac on the weekends. She loved gardening, pets, and the Irish tenor, Daniel O'Donnell. Most of all Maureen loved all of her family and prayed for everyone and anyone into the "wee hours" of the morning.

Maureen was predeceased by her brother, Arnie, and sister, Lena. She is survived by her husband, William, and step-children, Greg (Kathy), Jim (Cindy) Bill, Jennifer (David), Joe (Deanne), and Charlotte (Bob). She also survived by her sisters, Nora, Beth, Pauline, Jessie and Kathleen, brothers, Brian, Sean and Edward. Maureen will also be missed by her six grandchildren and one great-grandchild as well as the rest of her family and friends.

Remember Maureen and all our departed parishioners in your prayers.

Prayer for Displaced Iraqis

As an act of solidarity with the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena of Iraq and the people of northern Iraq, the Dominican Sisters of Adrian, Michigan, are holding a Procession and Prayer on the afternoon of Thursday, August 6th to observe their one-year anniversary of Iraqi Christian's flight from persecution by ISIS.

The observance will start at 3:30 p.m. in front of Madden Hall on the Motherhouse Campus in Adrian. The service will begin with the tolling of the bell in the tower of Holy Rosary Chapel, marking the time (10:30 p.m. in Iraq) one year ago when the Sisters evacuated their convents in Qaraqosh and neighboring villages to begin their long and harrowing escape. Sister Attracta Kelly, OP, Prioress of the Adrian Congregation, will read a letter from Sister Maria Hanna, OP, Prioress of the Iraqi Congregation, and then invite participants to walk in a silent procession to St. Catherine Chapel.

A new website (1000cranesforiraq.org) featuring cranes painted by Dominican artists, is being launched to raise funds in support of the refugee relief efforts of the Iraqi Sisters. The 1,000 cranes project – conceived by Sister Barbara Cervenka, OP – centers on the legend made popular by a Japanese girl, Sadako Sasaki who was exposed to radiation from the Hiroshima atomic bomb at the age of two and died of leukemia at age 12 before she could fulfill her wish of folding 1,000 cranes in prayer for health and world peace. Her classmates finished the project. August 6th marks the 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing.

A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

In today's gospel Jesus tells us: "Do not work for what perishes." Give your life to those things that endure – such as the family history you could create – the love and mutual respect which bonds you together – the memories you share and the forgiveness that you have generously given. These are the treasures that are worth working and dying for.

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," that is "made holy" by the need and use of the Church, the Body of Christ!

It's hard to think about it as we try to keep cool during the hottest time of the year, but we'll be heading back to our routines before August is over. Many schools and colleges begin in August, and the back-to-school ads are starting to appear. Summer vacations will be winding down as the tomatoes and corn ripen. What does "routine" mean in terms of our faith and our parishes? During the lull of early August, while the kids are getting in their last laps at the pool, it's a good time to reflect on what we hope to give to our parish this year, and what we hope to get from St. Ambrose Parish as we enter into our Centennial Year.

In society today, people yearn for community. But often, our extended families live far away, our lives are busy and often divided between demanding jobs and children with demanding schedules. We barely keep up with social media and don't find real community there. We neglect community and suffer from its absence. As Christian stewards, we try to keep our lives Christ-centered. We can't do that without community. Our commitment to Sunday Mass at the parish isn't enough to foster deep community there. We need more – and our parish needs more from us.

In the spirit of Pope Francis, find out about our parish's new Environmental Justice Committee. Learn more about the charitable outreach we do on behalf of the poor through our St. Vincent dePaul Society. Commit yourself to something that calls to you – something that you feel passionate about – something that could use your skills. Perhaps it's our Book Club that interests you, or our Adult Education group that would foster growth in your spiritual life. What you will find is not just a chance to serve or grow, but a deepening friendship with people who share your faith and walk on a spiritual journey which demands companionship. What you find in parish involvement is community.

A faith community is deeper than just the folks around the water cooler or the friends that meet for happy hour. A faith community asks more of us and gives us much more. The perfect place to find this community is this parish. Finding a small faith community within the parish strengthens you, it strengthens the parish, and it strengthens the Body of Christ. Take a fresh look at what your parish offers this fall, and a fresh look at what you have to offer your parish.

Adapted from an International Stewardship Council article, catholicstewardship.com.

While on Vacation

Your 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. We hope that this financial service allows you yet another way of managing your stewardship to St. Ambrose. Go to stambrosechurch.net for more information on electronic giving.



Mass Times When Traveling

Your membership in the Catholic Church gives you privileges to worship with any Catholic Community world wide. While on your vacation or traveling, websites like masstimes.org and thecatholicdirectory.com make it easy to find a mass wherever you are.