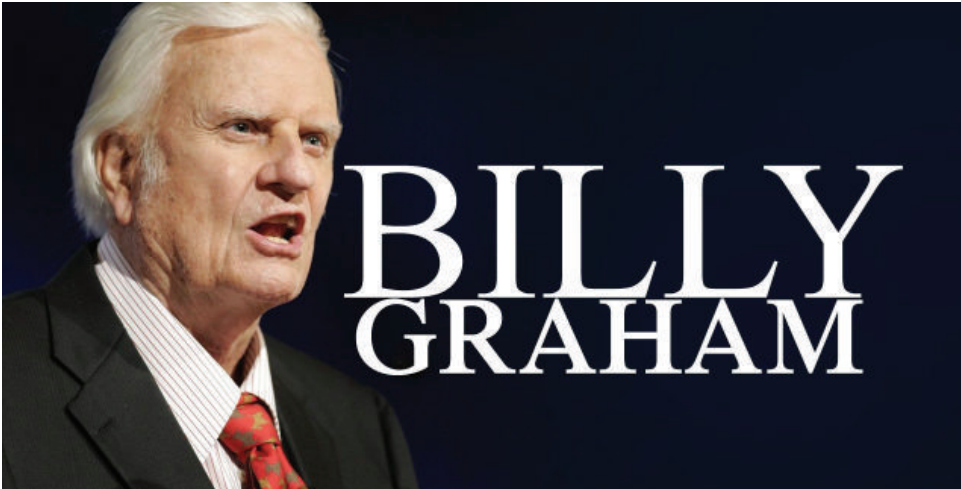


St. Ambrose Parish

MARCH 11, 2018
BEEHIVE



For much of his life, Billy Graham was the best-known preacher in the world. And when he died on February 21st at the age of ninety-nine, the nation paused to mark the passing of a man who gave new dignity and definition to the word “Evangelist.” In a span of half a century, he reached—in person, on the radio, and via television—an estimated 200 million people with the Gospel.

Fame made Billy friend to royalty, counselor to countless CEOs, and confidant of every U.S. President from Dwight Eisenhower to Bill Clinton—except for John Kennedy. JFK, the first and only Catholic in the White House, kept Graham at a distance. And for good reason. Like a great many Protestants, Graham believed a Catholic President would be beholden to the Pope. Although he wrote his friend Lyndon Johnson, Kennedy’s running mate, that he was staying out of the 1960 election—he would in fact be in Switzerland during the campaign—Billy secretly convened a group of Protestant leaders and organized a campaign (in the name of preserving “religious liberty”) to get out the Protestant vote. The Washington Post penetrated the group’s secret meeting in Washington weeks later and broke the story—except for Graham’s important role in it. And Graham, still in Switzerland, allowed Norman Vincent Peale to take the fall for him, which nearly destroyed Peale’s career. JFK read the Post story and then decided to accept an invitation to address a convention of Southern Baptist clergy in Houston. The rest is history.

If the other residents of the White House used him, as they surely did, Graham used the White House to foster a kind of national piety. And whenever a national tragedy occurred, like the 1995 bombing in Oklahoma City, it was usually Graham who was summoned to speak a televised healing word. Billy may have been Southern-born and Baptist-bred, but to the world he became the generic Dr. Christian.

For the first thirty years of preaching, Graham’s basic sermon seldom changed. He usually began with a rapid recitation of brief anecdotes—in later decades, they tended to be about his friends among the rich and famous. To these he’d add some dire statistics picked up from the media illustrating how far the world had fallen and how fast the end times were approaching. Then came the Gospel message, followed by his call to the crowd to come forward and make that personal “decision for Christ” without which there was no hope of salvation. Off the page, his sermons often read like a homily from Readers’ Digest. Graham was no theologian and did not pretend to be. But

with his resonant voice he could make the simplest sentence sound like sacred scripture.

Part of his passion was fired by a fierce anti-Communism that attracted conservative power brokers. In 1949, Graham erected “a canvas cathedral” in Los Angeles—his first big crusade—and a secular miracle happened. His message caught the fancy of publisher William Randolph Hearst, who ordered his editors to “puff Graham.” They did, and a week’s engagement lasted eight. Shortly after, Time’s editor-in-chief Henry Luce, himself the son of Presbyterian missionaries, visited Graham during a crusade in South Carolina. They talked privately into the night and soon Graham was featured in Time and Life. Mass media and mass evangelist met each other and embraced. The Age of Graham had arrived.

Throughout the 1950s, Graham was that oddly American version of a prophet: unlike Amos or Ezekiel, he was much honored in his own country. Various organizations named him “Salesman of the Year”—no small honor in an era when Jesus himself was heralded as the greatest salesman who ever lived. Travel magazine dubbed the evangelist “Mr. Travel.” His name appeared more than once on the Fashion Designers of America’s “Best Dressed List.” Year after year, Graham made the Gallup Poll’s “Ten Most Admired Men in the World.” Billy was for a time the Bob Hope of American religion: he presided once as the grand marshal of the Rose Bowl Parade and, in later years, amiably appeared on the television show, Laugh-In. Toward the end of his career, he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. At his death he was the only living person depicted in stained glass in Washington’s National Cathedral.

Continued on page 7

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Detroit's oldest Irish community is the place to be for St. Patrick's Day! Most Holy Trinity invites you and your friends to be a part of the fun, the food, the history and the memories. Proceeds benefit Most Holy Trinity's outreach ministries to the vulnerable in our city.

The March 17th Mass at Most Holy Trinity Church 1050 Porter Street is at noon with a prelude of traditional Irish music at 11:30. Mass is to be followed by luncheon at 1:30 in the IBEW Hall at 1358 Abbott Street with Celtic-inspired fare with a selection of beers and wine and a coffee bar and entertainment. Admission is \$40 per adult and \$15 for children 12 years and younger.

At 5 p.m there will be a Young Adult Happy Hour with great food, craft beer, live music, \$20 in advance - \$25 at the door. Online registration at mostholyltrinityministries.org.

Vincentian Reflection

In today's Gospel, God demonstrates great love for us by sending his Son so that we may believe in him. We demonstrate our great love for God by doing good works: reaching out to others, acting in justice and charity. Through your almsgiving you are performing a good work; far greater than you think. Know that your gifts are multiplied by the gifts of others when placed in the St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box.

Natural Family Planning

Couples are invited to attend the 2018 Natural Family Planning Support & Education Series: Deeper Reflections which begins on March 20th at Sacred Heart Major Seminary.

Couples use NFP for a variety of reasons from avoiding to achieving a pregnancy or simply to monitor their health. Whatever your reason for using NFP in your marriage – you are not alone. Get to know each other, explore the various NFP methods and hear incredible NFP stories. RSVP to nfp@aod.org and visit aod.org/nfp for upcoming dates and times.

Local Response to Gun Violence

March For Our Lives will be a *youth*-led event on Saturday, March 24th at 11 a.m. on the Riverfront – meeting at 1340 East Atwater St., Detroit MI 48207 – held in solidarity with other student-led events planned across the country that day. In addition to students, adults can be “allies” for the event. The exact details are still being planned, but the location for the program at the riverfront has been secured. There will also be some sort of march. The lead contact for this event is Grosse Pointe South student Harry Susalla and he can be reached at marchforourlivesdetroit@gmail.com. Youth groups from local churches both in Grosse Pointe and Detroit are encouraged to attend, and there are opportunities for youth volunteers as well.

WE GP is likewise working on a gun violence vigil in solidarity with the national day of action on April 20th, the 20th anniversary of Columbine. They hope to bring together a diverse group of people around the general principles/ideas of:

1. Coming together as a community to honor all lives lost to gun violence, and especially the lives of all our children (especially acknowledging that while mass school shootings that impact mostly white communities draw attention, black and brown communities have faced/face gun violence disproportionately);
2. Coming together as a community to send a message that we are ready and willing to do more to protect our children, who should not live / go to school in fear;
3. Coming together as a community in solidarity with the victims, the families and the loved ones of those impacted by gun violence.

It will be an evening event in order to have a candlelight vigil. The hope is to bring as many voices together as possible around the above general principles. They would like to reach out to coalition partners who will be interested in helping plan an impactful event. Shannon Byrne is the lead contact and can be reached at: we.gp@gmail.com or call (313)318-0916. All are welcome to join in the planning and coalition building.

ST. AMBROSE LENTEN BUFFET

Join us in the ARK at St. Ambrose for dinner every Friday in Lent, February 16th through March 30th, from 4 to 8 pm.

The menu includes a salad bar, soup du jour, fried or baked cod, tater tots, macaroni with cheese, a weekly special entrée, along with rolls, vegetable, coffee and tea. Desserts and drinks are available.

Carry-out service available
(313) 822-1594.



All Things Considered

IHM Sisters Marie Cyril Delisi and Alice Baker spent decades of their careers at St. Ambrose Academy. Upon their retirement, they remained in the area and continued their urban ministry under the auspices of Epiphany Education Center, which provides free after-school tutoring, one-on-one. Cyril and Alice have just turned over the reigns of Epiphany Center to **Roslyn Taylor**, a professional educator who serves there on a part-time basis and coordinates the work of all the volunteer tutors. We continue to support the good work started by our IHM friends. One way is through their Silent Auction which will be held at an annual fund raiser on April 28th at Sacred Heart Activities Center near Eastern Market. To arrange a donation of an auction item, call **George Bush**, who is one of the Center's tutors, at (313) 640-8295. The better and more interesting the auction item, the more revenue it produces for Epiphany Center, so be creative and generous in your giving.

✂✂✂

During Lent, Thursday masses are celebrated at 7:00 in the evening – leading up to Holy Thursday. These nighttime celebrations are smaller and more intimate than our weekend liturgies, which makes them a good way to appreciate the mass better. And because of a smaller assembly, these masses rarely go over 30 minutes. While the hour is late for young children, it may be perfect for families with teens and pre-teens. Talk it over with your kids and see if you can make a resolution to come to mass on Thursday. And remember that during Lent, private confessions are heard before the Thursday night and Saturday afternoon masses.

✂✂✂

Stations in the Street is a program begun by George Bush in collaboration with neighborhood Protestant

Churches. Its premise is that the graces of Christ's sacrifice on the cross continued to be poured out for the sufferings of his people most in need. Hence, on Good Friday, there is an outdoor procession to various stations in the neighborhood meditating on poverty, crime, budget cuts, pollution, drug and alcohol abuse, and violence.

In recent years, the Grosse Pointe Ministerial Association agreed to join in this prayer-experience, alternating annually between urban and suburban stations. But now there is less interest in alternating locations. The consensus is that both venues have merit and their own particular following. Thus we will continue to sponsor Stations in the Street in our urban setting, while the GPMA will continue their prayer service on Kercheval. So when you hear about two different locations for this outdoor prayer, you'll know that you have a choice. Our local Stations in the Street will take place on March 30th at 4:00 p.m., beginning at the foot of the cross on our plaza. We have some postcards for you to take to mail asking your neighbors to join us.

✂✂✂

This past Saturday's **Walk with Jesus**, brings back into play our Super Saturdays. I want to thank **Patricia Mocerri** and a dedicated group of volunteers who planned and executed this engaging afternoon. Super Saturdays will replace our Vacation Bible School. We believe that we have a better shot at attracting kids from the parish and Merit Academy with these one-day events that are not counter-programmed with other community and school activities in June.

Moreover, in keeping with the directives of our Archdiocesan Synod, we are exploring different activities which approach religious education as a family-centered rather than a kid-centered experience. Here is how that portion of the Synod document reads: *"[Parishes need to] Give support to movements and Christian communities that promote family life and evangelization. [They need to] Use all existing parish programs and events as opportunities to encounter Jesus anew, grow*

daily as his disciples and give witness to the power of his mercy... [They should also] Seek out simple ways to pray that fit your family... Seek out and initiate opportunities to pray with other families."

We'll be looking for other one-day family-centered activities over the course of the year.

✂✂✂

There are only three of our Lenten Buffet dinners left before Easter. If you have not been to one yet, plan on joining us with your family or a group of your friends. You'll notice that our Lenten Buffet event opens an hour earlier and closes an hour earlier. We begin the buffet at 4:00 and end it at 8:00 p.m.

We continue to get compliments on the good-nature of our teen volunteers. They are truly a remarkable group of young people and even though not all of them are from the parish, they certainly are the best good-will ambassadors we have going. You're going to want to come to dinner and see that for yourself.

There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church, or you can send us an email letting us know what days you will be available. Volunteers are needed the afternoon before to help set up the room. Then there is a crew needed to bus tables and help at the buffet service. And it's always good to have a fresh couple of volunteers come in at the end of the night to do the final clean up and help reset the room for the next event. Our Lenten Dinners have a great reputation, not only for the food, but for the fellowship and community they engender. Help us build on that. Invite someone you work with, or a neighbor to join you for this fellowship meal.

And, while you are nourishing your body, nourish your soul too. Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will be celebrated at 7:00 on the Fridays of Lent. Come for dinner and then stay for these time-tested spiritual exercises. Each moment that you spend in Christ's Eucharistic Presence will increase his divine life within you and deepen your personal relationship and friendship with him. The time you spend with Jesus will deepen his divine peace in your heart.

TRP

Lenten Observances



- Lent is the liturgical season which runs from Ash Wednesday until the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.

- **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of total fast and abstinence from meat.**

- **All Fridays in 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., to 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.

In Port

Greetings from Boston! Well here I am, about seventy-five days from ordination to the priesthood, God willing. It has been a long four years and I am ready to return to the friendly confines of the Great Lakes State. I want to thank the many parishioners who have reached out with questions about the ordination. The ordination will take place at 10:00 on the 19th of May at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. I can't thank you enough for your caring and kindness in even being concerned about this Ambrosian ex-Patriot about to end his exile in New England. Thanks to our Pastor, my old friend Father Tim, my first Mass of Thanksgiving will appropriately take place at Saint Ambrose at 11:15 on May 20th – Pentecost!

How is your Lent going? As for me, giving up my Chai tea latte with skim milk, bread and yes wait for it...bacon, has been, shall we say, a challenge. As to the Chai tea latte's, don't even ask me if I have exercised the "wimp clause" whereby Sundays in Lent don't count as Lent. I refuse to incriminate myself...even a deacon has rights! We give things up so that we can center our life toward God. We look inside of our hearts and take inventory. If you are like me, you find yourself somewhat wanting. As a fellow Ambrosian, might I make a suggestion ... check in with God and have a chat. Put aside work or sports or extra-curricular activities for fifteen minutes and sit in our beautiful cathedral-like church with Christ. You don't even have to say anything – in fact, more often than not, I gain much more from private prayer when I shut my pie hole and simply listen to the boss. Believe me, in his own way he will touch you. He waits for you in the tabernacle and pines for you to visit. He loves and cares for you more than any of us can conceive. He is saddened when we veer away from him and smiles warmly and forgivingly as we approach him. As we head toward the downslope of Lent – even if your Lent has been less than ideal, there is still plenty of time to catch the train toward Calvary and subsequently, to Resurrection. So here is my diaconal challenge – spend 15 minutes with Christ in church before Holy Week. Sundays – when we all have to go to Mass do not answer the mail for this challenge. Come into church on a weekday – when it is just you and God. He is waiting, and your visit will fill him with joy. Finally, I don't know about you, but a character like me visits the confessional a few times during Lent. Permit me to encourage to you to visit Christ in the confessional soon. Might I recommend the Capuchin Monastery on Mt. Elliott. The confessors there are wonderful – so just in case you have had a negative experience in the confessional in the past – you have nothing to worry about. Go in and see Christ – say you are sorry – re-establish a close friendship – he so wants to forgive you...all he needs is your apology within the contours of the Sacrament. I am sure Father Tim will have two Penitential Services with private confessions beginning and during Holy Week as has been our practice as well.

I will see each of you over Holy Week as I will be helping Father Tim and his staff out over the Triduum. This will be my swan song aside from the Mass of Thanksgiving in May at Saint Ambrose – my home parish. Please know how much I care about you and our beautiful parish. You have been, are, and will be in my daily prayers. See you on Hampton soon.

Deacon John Maksym

Palm Sunday Retreat for Women

What better way to prayerfully and reflectively begin Holy Week than in the sacred space of Manresa? Manresa Retreat House is pleased to offer an overnight retreat for women that will begin on the afternoon of Palm Sunday, March 25th at 3 p.m. and end after lunch on Monday, March 26th at 1 p.m. There will be Sunday liturgy and time for sharing as well as silent reflection and prayer. On Monday morning we will join the Women to Women group to pray with Scripture.

The cost, which includes three meals and private room, is \$85 and due at the time of registration. Deadline to register is Wednesday, March 21st at www.manresa-sj.org/032518-palmsun or call the Manresa office at 248.644.4933 Ext. 100. Manresa Jesuit Retreat House is at 1390 Quarton Rd. at Woodward in Bloomfield Hills.

Faith Formation Station

*"If we go out to bring his Gospel with love and a true apostolic spirit...
Christ walks with us. - Pope Francis*

Here are some more highlights of the 1st semester of faith formation submitted by a few of our catechists.

GRADE 5B – THE SACRAMENTS:

Fifth grade has been working hard. We look at the Gospel each week to understand the Good Word in a meaningful way as it relates to being a 10 or 11 year-old student today. Each week, through a craft or game, we delve deeper into the meaning of each of the seven sacraments. It is important to recognize the growth happening as the students are transitioning from elementary to middle school age; they are examining the friendships built in the context of religious education and how being a disciple makes transitions and friendships easier. – Catechist, Michelle Martin

GRADE 7A – STUDY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT:

We have so much fun in our classroom learning about God. This new year we discussed giving all that we hold dear to us (all that is on our hearts) and giving it over to the Lord; as we discussed the rich young ruler in Matthew 21 and the widow's mite who gave all that she had in Mark 12. For our coordinating activity we made hearts symbolizing how we must give everything to Jesus and take up our cross and follow Him. As missionary disciples this Advent we practiced reading the gospel proclamations of the birth of Christ from the Bible. We practiced how we would share the gospel of the Lord's Birth with our friends and family at Christmas. The students wrote their proclamations and shared them in group format, alternating with singing Christmas Carols in between the sharing of their individual proclamations. Other highlights from the year include learning about the kingdom of God and how as disciples of Jesus it is our responsibility to use our talents to work together with God for his kingdom especially in showing Love, Mercy and Compassion. Both 7th grade classes learned about our pumpkin Saint, John Neumann. Finally, and firstly, we learned in September that Salvation is here! Jesus the Lord is our only hope. He is our salvation! We learned in our first class this year that we are children of God and Friends of God Most High through Jesus Christ our Lord in unity with the Holy Spirit. In our classroom we practice showing mercy as we play the headbands for Mercy Game. We pray the following together: the rosary, prayers of thanksgiving, and memorized prayer requirements. We also do projects, sing songs of worship, play games, and navigate the Bible, read from the Blest Are We Student Study Book, study scripture verses that correlate with the message we are focusing on. The Lord Jesus blesses us each week as our classroom is filled with praying, learning, song, and art activities as Jesus works in our classroom through the Holy Spirit. Thanks be to God for all these beautiful children. – Catechist, Nicole Flynn

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REMINDERS:

- Program Communication: Please be sure to open and read any communication from St. Ambrose that is being sent to the main contact email listed on your child/ren's registration form. Important information regarding upcoming events, changes in scheduling, sacramental preparation, etc. is communicated to parents this way. Check your spam file and call the office if you are not receiving emails. Email blast reminders will be forthcoming with details for the Palm Sunday processional.
- Program Evaluations are being collected in the hallway at Merit. We look forward to your feedback.
- Student Evaluations are being collected in class for any parents wishing to respond to their child/ren's progress report and/or thank their catechist for his/her faith and dedication.
- Substitute Catechists Needed: The program is in need of volunteers to occasionally serve as substitute catechists when our regular catechists cannot attend class. Lesson plans will be provided. Please consider helping us out with this ministry – parents, that means you! If you are interested in volunteering, call/email the office (313) 822-2814 or email reled.stambrose@comcast.net. Kelly Woolums

The Beehive

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

Pastor: Rev. Timothy R. Pelc
Assistant: Rev. Robert Wotycka OFM, Cap
Assistant: Rev. Mr. John Maksym
Pastoral Minister: Charles Droiowski
Religious Education: Kelly Anne Woolums
Minister of Music: Norah Duncan IV
Office Manager: Pamela Moffitt

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

Pastoral Ministry: (313) 822-2017

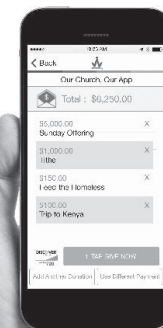
Ark Scheduling: (313) 822-2814

Parish Website: stambrosechurch.net

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Liturgy Schedule for the Coming Week

Monday, March 12

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Tuesday, March 13

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Fr. John O'Neil
Johannes Meingast

Wednesday, March 14

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Thursday, March 15

7:00 p.m. - Mass - Ted Dziurman

Friday, March 16

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Patricia Youngblood
7:00 p.m. - Stations of the Cross
& Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, March 17

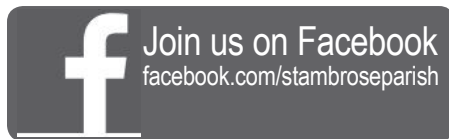
St. Patrick, bishop

2:30 - Reconciliation
4:00 p.m. - Mass - For All People

Sunday, March 18

Fifth Sunday in Lent

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



Scriptures for the 4th Week of Lent

Monday, March 12

- Is 65: 17-21
- Ps 30: 2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b
- Jn 4: 43-54

Tuesday, March 13

- Ez 47: 1-9, 12
- Ps 46: 2-3, 5-6, 8-9
- Jn 5: 1-16

Wednesday, March 14

- Is 49: 8-15
- Ps 145: 8-9, 13c-14, 17-18
- Jn 5: 17-30

Thursday, March 15

- Ex 32: 7-14
- Ps 106: 19-23
- Jn 5: 31-47

Friday, March 16

- Wis 2: 1a, 12-22
- Ps 34: 17-21, 23
- Jn 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday, March 17

- Jer 11: 18-20
- Ps 7: 2-3, 9b-12
- Jn 7: 40-53

Sunday, March 18

- Jer 31: 31-34
- Heb 5: 7-9
- Jn 12: 20-33

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 17th and March 18th

4:00 p.m. – Saturday – Celebrant: Fr. Pelc **Lector:** Pat Ticknor
Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Bennert, Elizabeth Puleo-Tague,
Matthew Strong, Mary Urbanski

Altar Servers: Joseph & Andrew Strong

8:30 a.m. – Sunday – Celebrant: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Bob Gatzke
Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Gatzke, Christopher Harrison, Joan Jackson,
Maggie Jackson, Colleen Jogan, Bob Jogan
Altar Servers: Alyssa Flores, Dailey Jogan

11:15 a.m. - Celebrant: Fr. Wotypka **Lector:** Roger Playwin
Eucharistic Ministers: Anne Billiu, Lupe Davila, Doris Fleming,
Sue Playwin, Darryl Swiatkowski, Patty Yaden
Altar Servers: Conor & Delaney Garvey

Your Envelope Speaks . . . the Inside Story

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

On Sunday, March 4, 2018

in envelopes we received \$8,476.00

in the loose collection \$609.00

in electronic donations \$1,390.00

in children's envelopes..... \$7.00

for a total of..... **\$10,482.00**

Over budget for the week..... \$382 .00

Number of envelopes mailed 800

Number of envelopes used..... 176

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..." - John 3:16

Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we be grateful and generous with our God-given gifts . . . that we nurture and develop them and return with an increase on His investment.

Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Karen Culver, Ann Sullivan Kay, Josephine Marino, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Mary Myers, Jeanne Noto, David Schumacker, Matthew Elias, George Bucec, Emilie Kasper, Arthur Stoyshin, Anna Noto Billings, Vilma Rivers, Vilma Marone, Eileen O'Brien, Darby O'Toole, Martha Luna, Dan Urbiel, Dina Engels, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, Mike Corron, Betty Greenia, Alexandra Cullen, Charmaine Kaptur, Alexandra Billiu, Frank Gregory, and Mark Olstyn.

Our Dead

A funeral liturgy was celebrated by Fr. Pelc on Saturday, February 24th for **James Leamon**, age 80.

Jim was born and raised in Detroit and lived here in the Park most of his life. He attended St. Ambrose Elementary and Grosse Pointe (South) High School. Jim was employed by General Motors for 39 years and retired to care for his ailing mother.

Jim met his wife, Mary Fran and together they raised their family. He enjoyed sailing and golf and had an interest in reading about history. Jim loved the Big Band sound and jazz and played drums in his younger days.

Jim was predeceased by his brother, Tom, and is survived by his wife, Mary Fran and his children Jim, Jr., Mary Beth and Thomas. Also surviving are his brothers, Gerald and John and his sisters, Joan and Judi.

The funeral liturgy for **Paul Sulek**, age 53 was celebrated on Saturday, March 3rd by Fr. Pelc.

Paul was born and raised in Detroit. He married his long-time love Margaret "Peggy" Greenia and together they were the owners of "Dish" restaurant. Paul was known to help those who needed help the most. He had many interests and shared them willingly with everyone.

Paul was predeceased by his brothers, Joseph and Edward. He is survived by his wife, Peggy, his mother, Mary Ellen McIntyre and brothers, Christopher and Robert.

BILLY GRAHAM

Continued from page 1

In the early 1960s, Graham's sun was temporarily eclipsed by another gifted Baptist preacher from the South: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. King's powerful words summoned the nation to something more than the personal redemption Graham preached. And his deeds eventually provoked a martyrdom that was unimaginable for a celebrity preacher like Billy Graham. Although Graham insisted that there be no segregation at his crusades, Billy shied away from moral pronouncements that might divide the country or shrink his big-tent constituency. To businessmen like hotel magnate J. Willard Marriott, a Mormon multimillionaire, Billy was "the leading religious man of our time"—not the least, Marriott explained, "because he is non-controversial."

Graham was utterly captivated by his privileged access to the leaders of this world—especially those who occupied the White House. For decades he virtually owned a key to the Lincoln bedroom. He was in the White House with Lyndon Johnson during the bloody 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago. Graham was there again on Johnson's last night in office and woke the next morning to preside at the inauguration of his close friend Richard Nixon.

Graham believed that American Presidents, once chosen, were divinely mandated. But Nixon was special: the one president in whom both God and Graham were well pleased. During Nixon's first term, especially, Graham gave face and voice to the American civil religion linking God and country. On the Fourth of July, 1970, Graham presided from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial over "Honor America Day"—a Nixonian celebration aimed at silencing those who were protesting the war in Vietnam. Long after Nixon was forced to resign the presidency, Graham remained his close friend and advocate. He appealed to President Gerald Ford to grant Nixon a presidential pardon, arguing that Nixon's health was suffering. And in 1994 he preached at Nixon's funeral. But Watergate had sobered him on politics. "I was naïve," he later admitted. When Jimmy Carter, a Southern Baptist Sunday School teacher, was elected President, the two men agreed that it would be best if Billy became less visible at the White House. One Southern Baptist preacher in residence was enough. In the Reagan years, Billy again became visible in Washington. It was Graham who advised Reagan, who was never much for church, not to leave the White House on Sundays to attend Sunday services. Nixon hadn't either, Billy recalled, and both men agreed that Reagan's presence in the church would disturb the other faithful. Graham was also close enough to Nancy Reagan to warn her about consulting astrologers.

By 1980, Graham had long since gone global with his message. In the late '70s, he managed to penetrate the Communist bloc in Eastern Europe, drawing Catholics and Orthodox Christians as well as Protestants. In Poland, one of his hosts was the Cardinal Archbishop of Krakow, Karol Wojtyła, who would later become Pope John Paul II. Seeing how Christians had persisted in their faith despite decades of persecution

seemed to change Graham. Perhaps for the first time, he was able to disconnect Christianity from its expression as an American civil religion. Thereafter, when he referred to himself as "an ambassador for Christ's kingdom," the phrase seemed to suggest that he no longer saw his role as an apologist for the American way of life. The more Graham traveled in later years, the less parochial he became.

Graham's relationship with Catholics was always polite, but he lacked an intuitive understanding of what the Catholic faith was all about. As individual bishops warmed to him, so he warmed to them. He was the first Protestant leader to recognize that John Paul II was, at heart, an evangelist like himself. "He is," Billy once declared in a *Newsweek* interview, "the moral leader of the West." Graham always hoped that his preaching would produce a great moral and social revolution like the one that the Polish pope helped precipitate in Eastern Europe. Graham's own models, though, were the Great Awakenings that shook eighteenth and nineteenth-century America and produced the abolition movement.

Significantly, Graham did not identify himself with the Religious Right of the 1990s. It was one thing for a preacher to use the White House as a pulpit, he seemed to believe, and quite another to mobilize Evangelical Protestants for partisan political purposes. Oddly enough, when fellow Southern Baptists Bill Clinton and Al Gore were elected in 1992—and even after a third Southern Baptist, Newt Gingrich, took over as Speaker of the House in 1994—Graham was barely visible in Washington. His kind of political influence—personal phone calls, advice and requests through notes and memos that he never publically acknowledged—had given way to blatant power plays of the Christian Coalition. Besides, Billy always liked to be liked.

As an evangelist, Billy Graham was unique. He built no university to carry on his name, as Oral Roberts, Jerry Falwell, and Pat Robertson did. He did create the Billy Graham School of Evangelism at his alma mater, Wheaton College. And in 1995 he also named his son and look-alike, Franklin, as his successor. But his true successors are the thousands of "barefoot" evangelists his organization has trained throughout the second and third worlds to take the Gospel back to their towns and villages.

Billy Graham will also live on through the miracle of videotape, his magnetic voice and image reaching, one imagines, from crusades past to generations not yet born. To be sure, there is more than irony in the fact that the world seemed no better off when he died than when he began his ministry more than half a century earlier. It may be, in fact, that his crusades were often pep rallies for the converted: by his own count, 80 to 90 percent of those who came to hear him speak were already church members. But even the "saved" can backslide, as indeed do whole countries and cultures. Evangelism was Graham's life, his message distinguished by his voice. Now he is silent. But who's to say that others have not reaped what he went out into the world to sow?

Excerpted from the article "America's Preacher" by Kenneth Woodward for commonwealmagazine.org, February 23, 2018.