

“Migrants and refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity. They are children, women and men who leave or are forced to leave their homes for various reasons, who share a legitimate desire for knowing and having, but above all for being more. — Pope Francis, Message for 2014 World Refugee Day

Large scale prisons - like facilities that detain immigrant mothers and their young children have been opened recently to respond to the approximately 68,000 family members who have entered the United States since October of last year. In addition to the facilities already built, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), a branch of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has requested funding to construct a total of 6,350 detention beds for undocumented migrant families with children in family detention centers throughout the United States. During the summer of 2014, DHS rushed to stand-up several large scale family detention facilities. One such facility, Artesia, located in a remote part of New Mexico on a federal law enforcement training compound, has already been closed. Currently family detention centers are located in Berks, Pennsylvania; Dilley, Texas; and Karnes Detention Center near San Antonio, Texas.

Family detention is one piece of the national immigrant detention network that continues to cost taxpayers over \$2 billion/year. Immigrant families (primarily women and children) who are apprehended on the Southwest Border by the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) are placed into ICE custody and ICE then places these immigrant families into family detention facilities. Family immigrant detention facilities are described by ICE as “residential facilities” with the families considered “residents”, but in reality the families have limited freedoms and are forced to live in a restrictive detention setting.

Why is family detention particularly harmful? A majority of the recent large number of families who have been apprehended at the US-Mexico border are coming from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras and are fleeing extreme violence and persecution. These vulnerable women and children are making increasingly dangerous journeys to seek safety and protection in the United States. Instead of receiving refuge, they are being placed in confining detention facilities in remote locations. Detaining children is psychologically and physically damaging to them

and against international human rights law and general child welfare principles. Many of these infants, toddlers, women, and children have legitimate protection claims and should not be detained. They also should receive due process protections and be allowed to appear before an immigration judge.

What laws oversee the conditions at the facilities? – ICE has created family detention standards, but the standards themselves are not codified and as such do not confer a cause of action in court. Family detention facilities are subject to minimal independent oversight to ensure compliance with standards. DHS is legally mandated to place families with children in the least restrictive setting possible, through the *Flores* settlement. *Flores* requires that the government release a minor from its custody without unnecessary delay. The government has a failed record of consistently implementing *Flores*.

Talking Points on Family Detention

• **Family detention is inhumane and violates basic human rights and dignity principles** – Detaining children and women in remote facilities that are difficult to access and provide services for is against our democratic and religious principles. Family Immigrant Detention frequently cuts off access to legal support and as a result prohibits due process. Children should not be locked up in prison - like facilities that restrict their movement and stunt their psychological and emotional development. Additionally, placing vulnerable women and children in detention who have experienced extreme persecution and violence is also against our moral and religious principles to protect the defenseless and welcome the stranger.

Continued on page 2

Family Detention

Continued from page 1

• **Family detention is expensive to operate and not proven to be more effective than less—Costly Alternatives to Detention** Immigration detention costs \$2 billion/year to run, and operating family immigrant detention centers will likely increase that cost as it is necessary to have state-mandated education and care and other services available for children. Alternatives to Detention (ATD) have proven to be much more cost-effective and humane restorative programs that ensure families appear for their immigration proceedings and receive vital social, legal, and community support. ICE should be directed to use some of its \$5.34 billion dollar budget to employ alternatives to detention for family care. ATD should be expanded and must include case managers and legal service providers to help access necessary services.

• **Family detention will not effectively deter families fleeing Violence and persecution from coming to the US** Detaining vulnerable families is not the solution to the violence that is making families flee from their home countries. Instead we should be looking to examine and identify root causes in home countries and looking to address the push factors such as violence, citizen insecurity and lack of community, educational and work opportunities. The lessons of “Hutto” (closed in 2009) show us that family immigrant detention simply does not work: it is harmful to women and children, expensive, and not an effective deterrent.

What Can I Do?

- Educate your community and policymakers that children who arrive with their mothers should not be detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)
- Voice Your Opposition to Immigrant Detention and Your Desire for Comprehensive Immigration Reform to Your Elected Officials.
- Voice Your Support For Increased Funding for and Usage Of Alternatives to Detention
- Build Awareness in Your Parish about Immigrant Detention, Family Immigrant Detention and the Detention Bed Quota. Write an Editorial in Your Local Paper or post on your social media about Family Detention and Immigrant Detention
- Give a Donation to National Catholic Fund for Migration and Refugee Services (uscbb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/migration-and-refugee-services/national-catholic-campaign-for-migration-and-refugee-services.cfm)
- Donate Your Legal, Social Work, and Spanish Language Skills and Time to Helping Coordinate Visitation and Legal and Social Service Support Efforts; Take an Immigration Training Course or Get BIA-Accredited (cliniclegal.org/training/calendar)
- Participate in Visitation of a Family Immigrant Detention Facility or Immigrant Detention Facility (endisolation.org/projects/visitation-programs/5)

- Provide Housing or Care for a Family - read the USCCB's Hospitality and Accompaniment for Immigrant Families Worksheet for more information (uscbb.org/about/migration-policy/upload/Accompaniment-for-Immigrant-Families.pdf)

Excerpted from the 2014 (!) publication Family Detention by the Migration and Refugee Service Office of Migration Policy and Public Affairs for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. uscbb.org/mrs.

Keep Families Together

The Department of Homeland Security has recently acknowledged implementation of the policy . . . of separating families arriving at the U.S./Mexico Border. Most Reverend Joe Vásquez, Bishop of Austin and Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration, issued the following statement in response:

“Forcibly separating children from their mothers and fathers is ineffective to the goals of deterrence and safety and contrary to our Catholic values. Family unity is a cornerstone of our American immigration system and a foundational element of Catholic teaching. ‘Children are a gift from the Lord, the fruit of the womb, a reward.’ (Psalm 127:3) Children are not instruments of deterrence but a blessing from God.

Rupturing the bond between parent and child causes scientifically-proven trauma that often leads to irreparable emotional scarring. Accordingly, children should always be placed in the least restrictive setting: a safe, family environment, ideally with their own families.

My brother bishops and I understand the need for the security of our borders and country, but separating arriving families at the U.S./Mexico border does not allay security concerns. Children and families will continue to take the enormous risks of migration—including family separation—because the root causes of migration from the Northern Triangle remain: community or state-sanctioned violence, gang recruitment, poverty, and a lack of educational opportunity. Any policies should address these factors first as we seek to repair our broken immigration system.”

June 1, 2018

God of the journey, God of the traveler –

We pray for those who leave their homes in search of new beginnings and possibilities, may they know your presence with them. We pray that those who seek to make a home in this country may find us welcoming and willing to help them find a path toward citizenship.

We pray that our legislators, as they craft new immigration legislation may find the wisdom and courage to enact new policies that do justice for our country and for those who would immigrate here.

We pray for those who fan the flames of fear and discrimination against the undocumented may be touched with your divine compassion. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Archdiocese of Chicago

All Things Considered

The show must go on! That's an axiom that comes from the entertainment world which indicates that no matter what the circumstances, the scheduled performance planned still has to be staged for the waiting patrons.

We usually time our Opera Breakfast to coincide with our hitting our target for the **Catholic Services Appeal** and most years that works. This year is an exception – contributions to the CSA have been coming in slowly and we have yet to meet the minimum requirement for the Archdiocese – let alone realize any overage for the parish.

But, the show must go on. Through the generosity of **Paul Lavins**, soloists, **Angela Theis**, **Diane Schoff** and **Ray Diaz** from the **Michigan Opera Theatre** will be here in the ARK this morning presenting a nice mix of operatic, sacred and popular crossover music. This is by way of thanking those who have made a donation or a pledge to the CSA. In the spirit of Christian stewardship, I hope you will consider making the most generous gift possible.

Because, the show must go on. The work of the Catholic Church in Southeastern Michigan, particularly, Sacred Heart Seminary, continues day in and out. People depend on us. It's for that reason that our CSA target is mandatory. As part of the Archdiocesan operating budget it is, in a sense, already spent. Hence if a parish does not meet its CSA target, it goes onto their books as a loan to be paid.

You may return your completed pledge card in the collection basket, mail it, or drop it off at the parish office. You may also make your gift to our parish campaign online, using your debit or credit card at give.aodcsa.org.

According to The Dictionary of Cliches, the principle of **the show must go on** is traditional in the theater, but also with the circus. If an animal got loose or a performer was injured, the

ringmaster and the band tried to keep things going so that the crowd would not panic – or because it is a point of honor not to let the other players down by deserting them when no understudy is available. It seems to me that is also a reasonably apt description of the job of a pastor.

2	0	CSA
1	8	Box Scores

Number of Families	900
Returns to date	139
Average Gift ('17)	\$440
Quota for the Archdiocese	\$87,418
Property/Liability Insurance ...	\$52,000
Parish '18 Target	\$139,418
Received as of 6/5/2018	\$68,424

- We need your participation to help cover our share of the burden of operating the Catholic Church in Southeastern Michigan. Contribute by using the CSA forms sent to you, or you can make a contribution electronically through stambrosechurch.net.
- After our obligation to the Archdiocese is met, the overage will be applied to our property/liability insurance. Last year, we funded 26 weeks of premiums.



What a splendid gesture on **Fr. Robert Wotypka's** part that he asked that his "going away" not focus on him but on a much overlooked (and often maligned) segment of our community – the people at Freedom House.

Currently located in the shadow of the Ambassador Bridge, Freedom House is a unique, non-profit halfway house providing food, shelter and free legal assistance for individuals and/or families seeking political asylum in the U.S. or Canada. Freedom House is administered by the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary order from Monroe MI and survives on donations, grants and the generosity of volunteers.

Some of Freedom House's residents are actively hunted here by agents from their country of origin. So the stakes for those at Freedom House are high. Quite literally, they are here

because they do not have anyplace else to go!

Parishioner **John Miller** has been deeply involved with the workings of Freedom House for a long time. He tells me that there is an urgent need to expand their services – in light of the growing political repression across the world. Unfortunately, this need slams up against a growing resentment toward immigrant minorities in the current political climate.

The Catholic Catechism promulgated in 1992 instructs us that good government has the duty to welcome the foreigner out of charity and respect for the human person. Persons have the right to immigrate, and thus government must accommodate this right to the greatest extent possible, especially financially blessed nations:

"The more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin. Public authorities should see to it that the natural right is respected that places a guest under the protection of those who receive him." CCC 2241.

Our U.S. Catholic Bishops accept the legitimate role of the government in enforcing immigration laws. However, the USCCB believes that in the process of so enforcing those laws, the government must protect the human rights and dignity of all, with particular consideration for the most vulnerable – including refugees, asylees, and unaccompanied alien minors.

So as Fr. Robert leaves, his last "sermon" to us challenges us to care for those who are left behind. If you can't join us for the **Gears and Beers** gathering on the afternoon of June 24th, you might want to talk with John Miller about how you can offer Freedom House the help they need.

I wonder if a few of our Ambrosians might want to invite a few of the current residents of Freedom House to Robert's party as their guests? Such a one-on-one experience could go a long way in healing the wounds caused by mistreatment here and abroad.

Freedom House

St. Ambrose is hosting a fundraiser for Freedom House on June 24th. Here are some of the things they do.

Freedom House is unique in its comprehensive approach to assisting those who seek asylum in the United States and Canada. We provide housing, food, clothing, legal aid, medical care, mental health care, English as a Second Language classes, education, job training, recreation, transportation, and off-site housing.

Food and shelter

Each year hundreds of people arrive at Freedom House seeking shelter and support, usually with little more than the clothes they are wearing. We do not turn away anyone who is eligible for asylum.

Legal services

Freedom House staff provides assistance with applications for U.S. asylum, legal and safe entry to Canada, and family reunification.

Social services

Many arrive at Freedom House highly traumatized both physically and mentally. Freedom House offers extensive social services, including medical and mental health care, to help residents begin to heal and acculturate.

Education and job training

Freedom House helps residents develop marketable skills and employment plans that enable them to be financially independent by the time they leave our program.

Offsite housing

Residents with employment authorization and/or asylum status may receive continued support as they progress toward financial independence. We help our clients with rent, household establishment, and other tasks as they adapt to their new country.

Public education

Freedom House is committed to educating the public about the plight of refugees. Staff, board members, residents and volunteers speak to a wide variety of organizations and entities, and we welcome cultural exchanges and site visits.

Vincentian Reflection

Today, Jesus looking around those seated in the circle said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." Through your almsgiving you are indeed doing the will of God and your gift to St. Vincent de Paul indeed brings Christ's love and compassion to the poor in "your family."

Post Diakonos

Our "From Gears to Beers" farewell fundraiser for Freedom House is two weeks away. The Majestic Detroit will bring the foam, thanks to their donation of the craft beer, and Tom Nance and Stefan Kukurugya will bring the funk. Tom is music director at Saint Charles Borromeo Church, where every Sunday he and Stefan help break open God's word without ever breaking tempo. They are superb musicians and the core of the band that will perform after the 11:15 a.m. mass on Sunday, June 24th and will run until 5:00 p.m. This week's rejected re-branding of the event was "**East Coast, West Coast, All Around the Lake.**"

Fr. Robert Wotypka

Fr. Robert Wotypka, OFM Cap., is moving from a City of Gears to a City of Beers! He has accepted a new assignment in Wisconsin working in an array of direct ministries called Capuchin Community Services in downtown Milwaukee.

St. Ambrose Parish is hosting a farewell fund-raiser for Freedom House (www.freedomhousedetroit.org). Freedom House is a temporary home for survivors of persecution from around the world who are seeking asylum in the United States and Canada.

The party will take place in the ARK on Sunday, June 24th, after our 11:15 a.m. mass, and run until 5 p.m. There will be a live band, dancing, and a Motown-inspired lunch. There will also be Wisconsin beers as well as some Michigan Craft Beer (to remember us by). The suggested free-will offering is a minimum of \$20, with free soft drinks and a cash bar. All proceeds go to Freedom House.

Plan on having a *good* time to honor a *good* Friar's work and support the *good* works of Freedom House.



The Buzz

Welcome back to the Sundays in Ordinary Time. Today is numbered as the 10th to be precise. And the liturgical color green returns to most Sundays between now and late November or so. (Green has been back on weekdays for a couple of weeks – since the Tuesday after Pentecost.) But even though most of us would like things to calm down and become more “ordinary”, there’s a lot of extraordinary stuff happening these days of the year.



First, a thanks to everyone who helped at last Saturday’s Playscape Birthday Party. Apparently, Merit Academy was running an event that coincided on the calendar, and so, many were surprised to see a bounce-house on site for the kids etc. that made it look very festive . . . like an upscale birthday party! Cool! In any case, special thanks has to go to George Bush who is the caring heart and hands of the Playscape and who organized Saturday’s event from the parish side of things.



Next, I hope everyone is thoroughly enjoying today’s (Sunday) Opera Victory Breakfast to celebrate another successful CSA Campaign at St. Ambrose. If you couldn’t be here, and haven’t made a pledge, please still do so. Remember, once we meet our required archdiocesan quota, your pledge/contribution comes right back to directly help the parish at a veritable 107% rate. Both today’s beautiful music and your direct participation in CSA are extraordinary parts of this Ordinary Time of year.



This week Wednesday through Friday (13th-15th) is the annual Assembly of the American Catholic Bishops. This year the Spring meeting is taking place in Ft. Lauderdale. On the day I’m writing this, I happened to be chatting with someone who lives north of Lauderdale, on the Atlantic coast. I’m always interested in asking about the weather when talking with someone who is in another part of the state or country. I was told that the rains had let up, only to be replaced by 100-degree temperatures, with almost as high humidity. Let’s pray for the bishops to stay cool . . . maybe even to “chill” on some issues . . . but maybe to get “fired up” about others! Pray that the Holy Spirit be their best adjustable thermostat.



Then next Sunday is Father’s Day! There’s nothing ordinary about a good father. In these times, their extraordinary importance in the family and in society becomes clearer and clearer. Some time or more over the next two weeks, find the time to pray thanks for and blessings upon your dad – still with us or deceased – he’s still important.

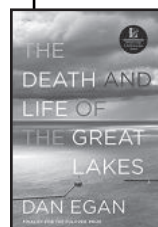
Father’s Day is also a time when Christian dads might examine and rededicate themselves to how they reflect the fatherhood of God to their children. And children might examine and rededicate themselves to reflecting the relationship Jesus had with “Abba”.

(The formality of biblical translations has never allowed us to get the full impact of what Jesus was saying with this expression. Scholars tell us that “Abba” would be much better translated as “daddy” or even a younger infant/toddler’s first verbalization of the word. Why not – if your love for God is strong enough – use this expression at least once privately today when you say the Lord’s Prayer?! See what impact it might have on your heart and soul . . . as well as your relationship with God.)

None of us is perfect at either role of parent or child. But being made in the image and likeness of God means things go better for us when we consistently strive to pattern our lives on the models God has shown us in the Trinity. So, dads, try to love your children more like God does. Children, try to love your dads (and moms too!) more like Jesus does. Maybe the vision of human nature seen from Genesis would grow in our world if more parents and children really and deeply tried out this way of life. The ordinary can indeed become extraordinary!

Chuck Dropiewski

Marcellina’s Book Club



The Great Lakes hold 20% of the world’s surface fresh water and provide sustenance, work and recreation for millions of Americans. But they are under threat as never before, and their problems are spreading.

In the Death and Life of the Great Lakes, author Dan Egan paints a portrait of an ecological catastrophe happening before our eyes – blending the epic story of the lakes and the ways we can restore and preserve them.

We are in the process of connecting with the author to see if he can pay our book club a visit at a date to be announced. Pick up a copy of the book and get a head-start in reading this important work which was one of this year’s twenty Notable Book Honorees by the State Library of Michigan.

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

Pastoral Minister: Charles Dropiewski

Religious Education: Kelly Anne Woolums

Minister of Music: Norah Duncan IV

Office Manager:

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

Liturgy Schedule for the Coming Week

Monday, June 11

St. Barnabas, apostle

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Tuesday, June 12

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Raymond Pelc

Wednesday, June 13

St. Anthony of Padua, priest & doctor

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Thursday, June 14

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Jeff Wyrick;

Marvin Houle and family;

Ray and Rosanna Tessmer

Friday, June 15

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Roy Rengert;

Anthony and Jeanne Maksym;

Culogio Tabale

Saturday, June 16

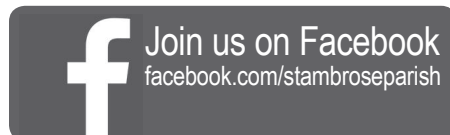
4:00 p.m. - Mass - For All People

Sunday, June 17

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. - For All People

11:15 a.m. - For All People



Scriptures for the 10th Week of Ordinary Time

Monday, June 11

- Acts 11: 2b-26; 13: 1-3
- Ps 98: 1-6
- Mt 5: 1-12

Tuesday, June 12

- 1 Kgs 17: 7-16
- Ps 4: 2-5, 7-8
- Mt 5: 13-16

Wednesday, June 13

- 2 Kgs 18: 20-39
- Ps 16: 1-2, 4-5, 8, aa
- Mt 5: 17-19

Thursday, June 14

- 1 Kgs 18: 41-46
- Ps 5: 17-19
- Mt 5: 20-26

Friday, June 15

- 1 Kgs 19: 9a, 11-16
- Ps 27: 7-9c, 13-14
- Mt 5: 33-37

Saturday, June 16

- 1 Kgs 19: 19-21
- Ps 16: 1b-2a, 5, 7-10
- Mt 5: 33-37

Sunday, May June 17

- Ez 17: 22-24
- 2 Cor 5: 6-10
- Mk 4: 26-34

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time June 16th and June 17th

4:00 p.m. – Saturday – Celebrant: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Bern Degnan
Eucharistic Ministers: Karen McShane, Elizabeth Puleo-Tague, Matthew Strong
Altar Servers: Joseph & Andrew Strong

8:30 a.m. – Sunday – Celebrant: Fr. Pelc **Lector:** Bob Gatzke
Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Gatzke, Maggie Jackson, Bob Jogan,
Steve Linne, Bernadette Pieczynski, Chris Walsh
Altar Servers: Nicholas, Margaret, & Meredith Kramer

11:15 a.m. - Celebrant: Fr. Pelc **Lector:** Kurt Vatalaro
Eucharistic Ministers: Beverly Bennert, Anne Billiu,
Sue & Roger Playwin, Darryl Swiatkowski
Altar Servers: Ella Chamberlain, Liam O'Byrne

Your Envelope Speaks . . . the Inside Story

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

On Sunday, June 3, 2018

in envelopes we received \$5,879.00

in the loose collection \$546.00

in electronic donations \$1,390.00

in children's envelopes..... \$.25

for a total of..... **\$7,815.25**

Under budget for the week..... **\$2,285.25**

Number of envelopes mailed 900

Number of envelopes used..... 151

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the body." – 2 CORINTHIANS 5:10

*We are all accountable for the gifts God has given us – our time, our talent and our treasure. Each of us is accountable not only for our own life but for the lives of others as well. One day God will ask each of us what did we do with the gifts we were given.
How will you respond*

Our Sick

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

Marriage Encounter

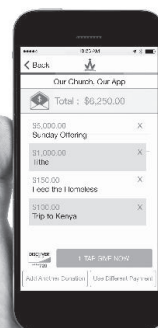
Create a beautiful tomorrow today together with a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend Experience! Renew the commitment, intimacy and passion in your marriage and make a good marriage even better!

Register @ encounterdetroit.org or Call 888-322-9963 for the following 2018 weekend dates:

August 17-19, Holy Family, Novi
September 28-30, Holiday Inn, Troy
November 2-4, St. Mary, Wayne.

Givify Tap. Give. Done.

- Donations to our church have never been so easy!
- Give tithes and offerings from your smartphone
- Donate anytime, anywhere
- Track your donations
- Make us your home church on Givify
- Free to download and use



givify.com/app

Download on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google play



Catholic Services Appeal: Commitment Weekend Breakfast

Commitment Weekend for the Catholic Services Appeal takes place this Sunday, June 10th following the 8:30 and 11:15 a.m. masses when we will host our Ambrosian Opera Breakfast in the ARK. We will be celebrating all those who have made a commitment to the 2018 Catholic Services Appeal – and hopefully, the achievement of our goal. We've invited **David DiChiera and a group of performers from the Michigan Opera Theatre to be on hand to regale us with a selection of operatic highlights.**

In gratitude for your support of the Catholic Services Appeal, come join us for this uplifting musical breakfast celebrating St. Ambrose. There is no charge for those who have made a commitment to this year's CSA. If you haven't already done so, pledges will be accepted at the entrance to the Breakfast in the Ark.

Leaving Port

As I start my life as a priest, I wanted to thank each of you, my fellow Ambrosians, for your outreach of care, congratulations and affection over my ordination week. Celebrating my first Mass with each of you was a dream come true. As I was listening to Father Tim's homily, I looked around our beautiful cathedral-like church and was filled with ever so many memories. As our Pastor mentioned the grade school and the wonderful Dominicans, I was transported to my first grade classroom, our still beautiful church that looked rather different then - for my First Holy Communion and in more contemporary terms to my hundreds of Masses here with my lovely Mother. In short, Saint Ambrose is part of my life – nothing will ever overshadow that fact. This will always be home. Yet, the Holy Spirit sends all of us out, and for priests, that means going forward to a new mission – for me, the people of Saint Joseph in Lake Orion.

No matter where I am, always know that you and your families will be in my prayers. I leave behind personal friends who will not be forgotten. Permit me to thank each of you for my ordination luncheon and brunch after my first Mass. That was a parish gift to me and I cannot adequately express my appreciation for the manner in which you treated a native son of this parish.

Permit me to close by extending a special thank you to our Pastor and my friend, Father Tim, our Pastoral Assistant Chuck Dropiewski, his wife Sue, Mary Urbanski, Pam Moffitt, Scott Sellke, and Mike Heckman - along with the entire Ark staff for working tirelessly to make my special weekend all the more wonderful. By the time you read this I shall be underway with my beagle for a few weeks of rest, and then on to Saint Joseph's. Good-byes are tough and I am all rather clumsy in advancing them. Simply know of my prayers and best wishes. May Almighty God keep and protect each of you ... take care.

Fr. John Maksym

Newman Connection

Choosing a college is one of the biggest decisions a student will make in his/her life. Some choose easily by going to the college that is closest to their home or perhaps an alma mater of their parents. Some find it more challenging and weigh all of the options. Either way, The Catholic Newman Connection supports students throughout this process by connecting them to the campus ministry of their chosen college, uniting with them in prayer, and helping them grow in their faith, creating a community of Catholic students nationwide. If you are headed to college, or are in college now, go to newmanconnection.com. Get connected, unite in prayer, and grow in faith.

Stewardship Moment

Good stewards understand that the weekly celebration of the Eucharist is a communal gesture by which the gathered community reveals its faith and hope in the risen Lord. Moreover, it is a profound communal act of faith that Christ is present and active in the world at this moment. Given that understanding, what responsibilities do we take on to lift up the faith of our community? What part do we play in giving it hope?!

Capuchin Retreat at 50

You, your family, and friends are invited to come and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Capuchin Retreat House in Washington, MI. Bring the family for a picnic-style open house on Sunday, July 15th from 1 to 5pm.

The schedule for the day is:

1 – 5 pm Open House Celebration (rain or shine) with tours, games & activities for kids
1:15 pm Rededication of the cornerstone by Bishop Gumbleton and a House Blessing

1:30 – 3:30 picnic-style lunch provided
Parking is available at Saints John & Paul Catholic Church located at 7777 28 Mile Rd., Washington, MI 48094, where we will be offering continuous free shuttle service to and from the Retreat House. Please see their website for more information at capretreat.org or call (248) 651-4826.