

Mid-Summer Feasting: The Birth of John the Baptist

Merry Christmas! I know it's not December, but June 24, Solemnity of the Birth of St. John the Baptist, is often referred to as "Summer Christmas" because it is exactly six months from Christmas. Devotion to St. John the Baptist, the Precursor of Christ is very ancient, which makes this such a multi-faceted feast both in the liturgy and traditions connected to the feast. To touch on a few highlights:

A Birthday Celebration

The only other births that are celebrated in the Church's Liturgical Calendar are the birth of Jesus on Christmas, and the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8th. Jesus is the Son of God, so He is always without sin. Mary was immaculately conceived, having no original sin and staying sinless throughout her life. Church tradition states that while in St. Elizabeth's womb, upon hearing Mary's voice, John the Baptist's soul was cleansed of original sin as he leapt for joy. The Church celebrates St. John's birth and death, but usually saints' feast days are celebrating the day of their death, marking their birthday into heaven -- the first day of their eternal reward.

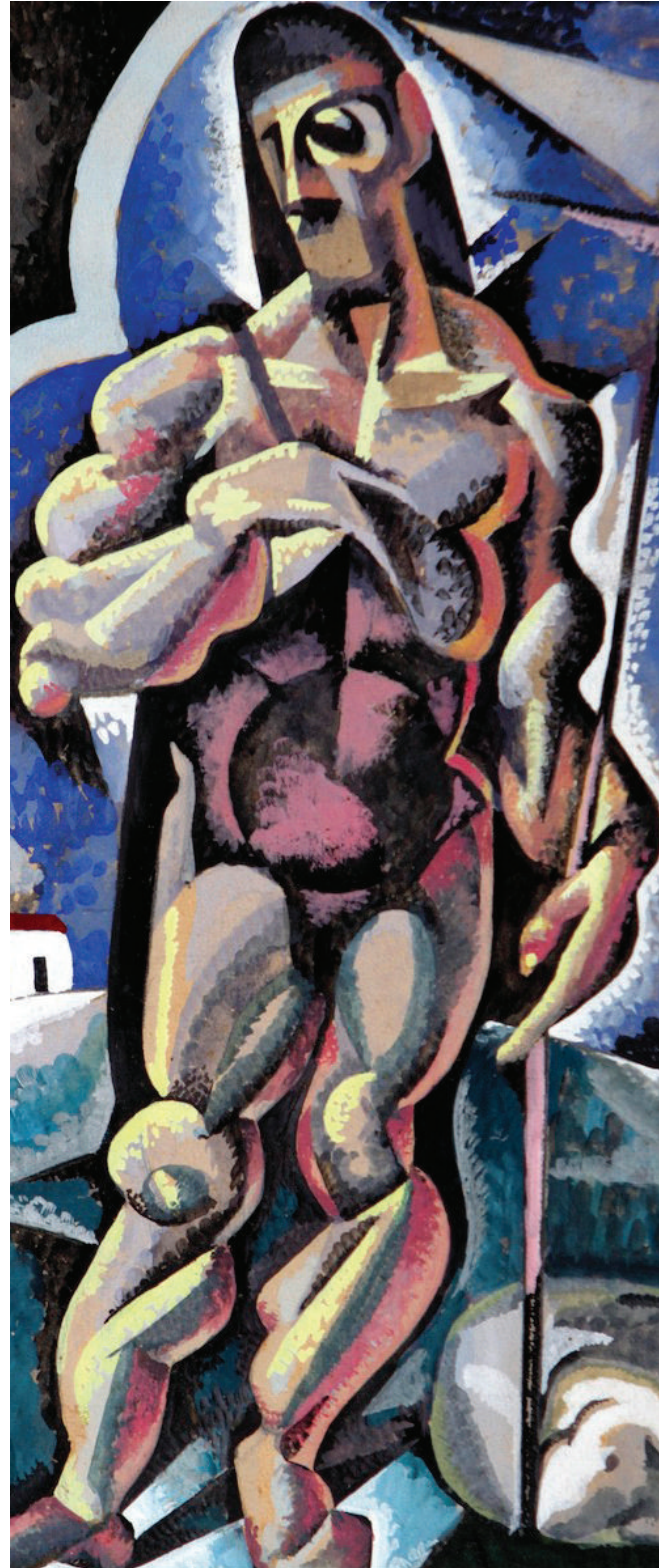
Just Like Family

St. John played a major role in our salvation history, and the Church encourages us "to realize the importance and significance of the feasts of those Saints who have had a particular mission in the history of Salvation, or a singular relationship with Christ such as St. John the Baptist (24 June)..." (Dir. Pop Piety, #229)

He "straddles both the Old and New Testaments" (Dir. Pop. Piety, #224) but is prominently featured in the Gospels. Except for Jesus, there is no other person that we get to know so intimately—from conception to death, and even what he wore and ate. He is mentioned centuries before his birth in several Old Testament prophecies, particularly Isaiah's "A voice crying out in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way of the Lord' (Is 40:3) but most prominently featured in the Gospels.

At the recent feast of the Visitation at the end of May, we met John's parents, and were introduced to him in St. Elizabeth's womb. This Solemnity, June 24th, celebrates the birthday of John — the (second) cousin of Jesus.

Continued on page 2



John the Baptist

Continued from page 1

The Gospels do not describe his childhood, but we meet him later preaching repentance and baptizing in the Jordan. He baptizes his own cousin, Jesus, to begin His ministry. The description of John evokes a wild image of a man wearing a “garment of camel’s hair, and a leather girdle around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey” (Matt 3:4). We see a man who is not afraid to be outspoken, who never minces words to please others (“You brood of vipers!”). He created enemies, including the wife of Herod. He eventually was imprisoned and beheaded because he upheld the truth.

No other saint in the New Testament is described so richly. John the Baptist becomes like a member of the family because we witness very personal snapshots of his life.

Light and Water

This feast brings to the forefront imagery of light and water. The opening of the Gospel of John describes the Baptist’s role: “He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light” (John 1:7-8). Later John the Baptist explains that he is the friend of the bridegroom, rejoicing at the sound of the bridegroom’s voice, “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30).

As noted before, the Precursor’s birth marks the halfway point before Christmas. In the Northern Hemisphere, this feast marks midsummer, close to the historical Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year. After the solstice, the days grow shorter (the light decreases) until we reach the winter solstice, close to Christmas, where we have the shortest day of the year, and Christ comes upon the world. After Christ’s birth, the light increases. Granted, Midsummer Eve festivities were held long before Christ was born, but the Church wisely baptized this festival, nourished it and now calls it Her own.

Light (as in sun and fire) and water are the two imageries that keep repeating for this feast (and saint). All over Europe bonfires were traditional for St. John’s Eve. “The Church blesses such fires, praying God that the faithful may overcome the darkness of the world and reach the “indefectible light” of God.” (Dir. Pop. Piety, #225) Here we can see the merging of popular piety with the liturgy with the official blessing from the Roman Ritual for the bonfire.

And as St. John THE BAPTIST baptized with water, including Our Lord, water plays a significant role. In reading about different customs throughout the world my favorite has to be Mexico, where they bathe and swim and throw water “baptizing” each other.

Double Play

Another unique aspect of this feast is that it touches on both the temporal and sanctoral cycles. The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines the Liturgical Year: “The celebration throughout the year of the mysteries of the Lord’s birth, life, death, and Resurrection in such a way that the entire year becomes a ‘year of the Lord’s grace.’ Thus the cycle of the liturgical year and the great feasts constitute the basic rhythm of the Christian’s life of prayer, with its focal point at Easter.” (#1168)

Within this Church year are two cycles. The more important cycle is the Temporal cycle (from the Latin *tempus* which means time or season). The life of Christ is relived in liturgical time, in both real time and Church’s memory. Throughout the year the Paschal Mystery (Christ’s work of redemption through His birth, life, passion, death, and resurrection and ascension) is relived, and broken down into the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Ordinary Time. Sundays are the usual means by which this cycle unfolds.

At the same time with the Temporal cycle, the Sanctoral cycle (from the Latin *sanctus*, which means saint) progresses. The Church honors Mary, Mother of God; and the memorials of martyrs and other saints are kept by the Church. The main focus should be around the feasts of the Paschal mystery. Saints are more of the “supporting cast.” Their lives illustrate that through time, with the different difficulties presented during each era, they could live out their faith. Their lives are witnesses to Christ and examples for all faithful to follow. But, like Mary, their lives point back to the saving mysteries of Christ.

John the Baptist fits into both of these cycles. We honor him as a saint on both of his feasts, June 24 and August 29, but since St. John’s life is intertwined with Christ’s Redemption, his nativity fits into the temporal cycle.

All Around the Liturgical Year

Again, St. John’s role is so integral to the Paschal mystery that we find him throughout all the Liturgical seasons and calendar. He prepares the way of the Lord in both the seasons of Advent and Lent. John baptizing his Cousin on the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord ends the Christmas season. His life and work point to the Light of the World who comes at Christmas, Christ Our Paschal Light at Easter, and also the importance of our baptism, particularly during the Easter season. In the summer during Ordinary Time we celebrate his birth and death, and sprinkled throughout the year are readings from the Gospels that emphasize his life and role in salvation.

In short, St. John the Baptist is one of our main companions and guides during our journey throughout the Liturgical Year. St. John the Baptist was greater than a prophet in the words of Jesus. The Gospels really help us to know the cousin of Jesus well, and the Church holds him as one of our companions throughout the Liturgical Year. May your midsummer feast be blessed by getting to know this Forerunner of Christ even more!

By Lisa Grey, from the June/July/August 2018 issue of Catholic Digest

All Things Considered

Fr. Robert Wotypka's assignment here in Detroit is coming to an end. On July 1st he reports to Milwaukee where he will be in charge of an array of the Capuchin ministries in that city – not the least of which is a food kitchen similar to the one here at St. Bonaventure's.

Fr. Robert is a great example of a student who taught the professor a thing or two. I am going to miss his wisdom wit, erudition and humor. I am humbled by his never flinching integrity and his steadfast witness to Gospel values – particularly when it comes to speaking the just word. Pope Francis had someone like Robert in mind when he wrote: *"I believe that Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically."* (*Laudato Si*, 10)

The Franciscan Capuchin charism is to keep a watchful eye out for those who are slipping between the cracks of society. St. Francis of Assisi was known as a symbol of austerity and concern for the poor. In that spirit Fr. Robert has 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. A number of the guests at Freedom House are coming to the party. I know that you will extend to them a warm Ambrosian welcome. Given the ill-will being directed at so many immigrants and asylum seekers in recent months, such a one-on-one experience could go a long way in healing the wounds caused by mistreatment here and abroad.

In this context consider this quote from Ronald Reagan's 1989 farewell address: *"I've spoken of the shining city all my political life, but I don't know if I ever quite communicated what I saw when I said it. But in my mind, it was a tall proud city built on rocks stronger than oceans, wind swept, God blessed, and teeming with people of all kinds living in harmony and peace - a city with free ports that hummed with commerce and creativity, and if there had to be city walls, the walls had doors, and the doors were open to anyone with the will and the heart to get here.... And she's still a beacon, still a magnet for all who must have freedom, for all the Pilgrims from all the lost places who are hurtling through the darkness, toward home."*

So as Fr. Robert leaves, his last "sermon" to us challenges us to care for those who are still looking for home. God's speed, Brother! Like riding a bicycle, in order to keep your balance, you must keep moving forward!

TRP

A Motown Verse for Fr. Robert

Well, I heard it through the grapevine
Not much longer would you be ours
Tradin' in the Motor City and Motown
For some Wisco place of beers and bars.

Talk about a pivotal both/and moment
Makes us ask ourselves, what's goin' on?
Because in just the short time we've known you
This is the place we feel you belong.

You moved to Detroit in 2008
And we are grateful for your choice
You entered the priesthood just last year
And then you found your voice.

Your homilies and posts shed light on the scriptures
With new and intriguing notions
You made us think and make connections
Yeah ... we'd say, I second that emotion!

You admit to being a motorhead
You know your movies, music and the arts
And you wove it all together nicely, so it was
Signed, sealed and delivered to our hearts.

Your humor brought us laughter
And you never made a fuss
We could count on you to be there
I mean, you really got a hold on us.

You walked many a Detroit avenue
Showing us how to meet people where they are
Even if that means meeting them
At the Gears to Beers cash bar.

Yes, God writes straight with crooked lines
And He's leading you straight away
But there ain't no mountain high enough
That can keep this St. Ambrose friendship at bay.

We know Capuchin Community Services
In MKE is blessed you are heading to them
But we ain't too proud to beg, Brother Robert,
Stop! In the name of faith ... Amen!

You remind us that friendship is for always
This statement is truer than true
Reach out, and we'll be there
As you get used to your new brew.

And know that we will walk with you always
And keep you in our prayers each day
Your faith and goodness have inspired so many
You'll be missed more than words, and songs, can say.

– Grant Ruttinger

A Statement from Cardinal DiNardo, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

"At its core, asylum is an instrument to preserve the right to life. The Attorney General's recent decision elicits deep concern because it potentially strips asylum from many women who lack adequate protection. These vulnerable women will now face return to the extreme dangers of domestic violence in their home country. This decision negates decades of precedents that have provided protection to women fleeing domestic violence. Unless overturned, the decision will erode the capacity of asylum to save lives, particularly in cases that involve asylum seekers who are persecuted by private actors. We urge courts and policy makers to respect and enhance, not erode, the potential of our asylum system to preserve and protect the right to life.

Additionally, I join Bishop Joe Vásquez, Chairman of USCCB's Committee on Migration, in condemning the continued use of family separation at the U.S./Mexico border as an implementation of the Administration's zero tolerance policy. Our government has the discretion in our laws to ensure that young children are not separated from their parents and exposed to irreparable harm and trauma. Families are the foundational element of our society and they must be able to stay together. While protecting our borders is important, we can and must do better as a government, and as a society, to find other ways to ensure that safety. Separating babies from their mothers is not the answer and is immoral.

June 13, 2018

Vincentian Reflection

We celebrate the birth of John the Baptist and everyone pondered the question: "What, then, will this child be? For surely the hand of the Lord was with him." This month, "the hand of the Lord has been acting through you" as your gifts to the St. Vincent de Paul Society brought his love and care to the poor by assisting families with food, utilities, rent and other bills, etc.

Post Diakonos

With Apologies to Frank Sinatra and Ervin Drake

When I first joined the Caps, it was a very good year
It was a very good year for leaving behind selfish ways
And cutting up my credit cards
Watch out for the shards
I'd do more with less crap
When I first joined the Caps

When I was transitional d(eacon), it was a very good year
It was a very good year for learning the trade and parishioners' names
Meeting folks and straightening spokes
I'd ride Jefferson east
When I was transitional d(eacon)

When I was ordained priest, it was a very good year
It was a very good year for making an ontological change
For hearing and for sharing cares
Choosing Eucharistic Prayers
Presiding at Feasts
When I was ordained priest

When I was transferred to Milwaukee, I lost the whole rhyme scheme
I lost the whole rhyme scheme, but I'll just push on anyway
And not try to hide the seams
Or pretend there weren't muffled screams
It's not like I can be balky
'Cause they transferred me to Milwaukee

But now the days are short, I'm set for leaving The D
And I think of my Ambrosian career as reaping more than I have sown
From these well-tended fields
Grant them, God, ever-growing yields
And keep families close as Three-in-One
My time in The D is done

Thank you, Saint Ambrose church. May God give you peace.

Fr. Robert Wotypka

Networking for Catholic Professionals

Young Catholic Professionals' Detroit Chapter is inviting all 20-39 year old adults both single and married to join us for an exciting evening at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on Wednesday, June 27, 2018 starting at 7 p.m.

You will enjoy an evening of networking with other young professionals, complimentary food, beer, and wine followed by a very inspiring speaker, Walter Czarnecki, Executive VP of Penske Corporation, who will leave you feeling challenged as he shares his professional and spiritual faith journey!

Blessed Sacrament Cathedral is located at 9844 Woodward Avenue in Detroit just north of the New Center area. For information please visit our Facebook page at YCP Detroit or website at ycpdetroit.org. Additional questions can be sent to: Director of Outreach, Ann Hamel @ ann.hamel@ycpdetroit.org

The Buzz

This weekend and next form a most intriguing time in the Church liturgical and fiscal year. First, this weekend is one of those rare occasions when a solemn feastday on the Church's calendar takes precedence over the regular Sunday (Today would have been the 12th in Ordinary Time of Year-B.) assignment of scripture readings, prayers, etc. Instead, today we celebrate The Solemnity of the Nativity of John the Baptist, an observance that goes back as far as the century (4th) when St. Ambrose lived in Milan.

Think about it – the date was chosen for several reasons: in Luke 1:36 at Mary's annunciation, Elizabeth was in her 6th month. Based on when we celebrate the birth of Christ, that would put Mary's encounter with the angel in late March, and John's birth three months later.

But there is another delightful meaning to the correspondence between late June and late December. This past Thursday, the 21st at 6:07 am, summer began – the longest daylight of the year. (Northern Hemisphere of course!) These few days after the solstice may be the first perceptibly shorter ones. Conversely, in late December, the winter solstice marks the shortest daylight of the year. Christmas comes a few days later when we have possibly the first perceptibly longer sunlight.

Here's the "correspondence": Jesus is the light of the world. John the Baptist famously said, "He must increase; I must decrease." (Jn 3:30) So when the light begins to increase, we celebrate Christmas; when it begins to decrease, we celebrate the birth of John.

Our connection to all of this is not an *either or* ... but a *both and*. This time of year it's great to reconsider – with John – how we herald and prepare the way of the Lord each and every day. John did this with single-minded zeal; he was never unsure of his purpose and mission. Yet, before his beheading, he must have felt he had failed. But his dedication to God through thick and thin is what brought him both praise and reward from the Lord. It's an encouragement to me. How about you?!



Second, next Sunday is July 1st and is actually the beginning of a new Church fiscal/program year! This is true for every parish of the Archdiocese. And since it is a sort of new beginning, why not take it as another opportunity to make some New Year's resolutions?! One "programming" resolution might be to take one additional new step in the practice of your faith. Add one time of prayer; add one time of worship, one time of reflection, one time of service.... (If you try to do too many things – even ones that are great ideas – you'll probably get tired or discouraged too quickly and will wind up not doing any. Start with just one!)

Try out a weekday mass or morning prayer service once a month, quarter, or year. There's a different atmosphere at these than at a Sunday liturgy. Or you might seriously consider getting more involved at the Sunday Eucharist as a lector or EM of Holy Communion, or choir member, or minister of hospitality (usher).

Consciously try to schedule reading or some other form of learning more about your faith. A quick range of ideas here includes reading each day's scripture passages listed on page six of this bulletin. Sometime, check out the [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#), available online at the American bishops' website: usccb.org.

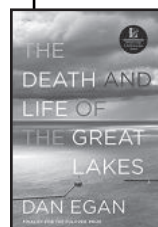
And don't forget about the other side of learning... teaching. Consider becoming a much-needed catechist or an assistant or a trainee in our ever-growing religious education program for 2018-19. There's time for preparation and training before the new year of classes begins in September. Our kids need happy, faith-filled adults to catch on to our Catholic way. Call **Kelly Woolums** at 822-1248 to explore the possibilities.



So, in light of this weekend's Solemnity and next Sunday's calendar significance, let me be the first to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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: Peggy O'Connor

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 25

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Tuesday, June 26

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Diden Martuscelli

Wednesday, June 27

St. Cyril of Alexandria, bishop & doctor

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Thursday, June 28

St. Irenaeus, bishop

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Helen Paczola

Friday, June 29

SS. Peter & Paul, apostles

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Robert Weikel

Paul and Katherine Lubinski

4:00 p.m. - Wedding - Rachel Carion & Matt Brown

Saturday, June 30

First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church

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

Sunday, July 1

The Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. - For All People

11:15 a.m. - For All People



Join us on Facebook
facebook.com/stambroseparish

Scriptures for the 12th Week of Ordinary Time

Monday, June 25

- 2 Kgs 17: 5-8, 13-15a, 18
- Ps 60: 3-5, 12-13
- Mt 7: 1-5

Tuesday, June 26

- 2 Kgs 19: 9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36
- Ps 48: 2-4, 10-11
- Mt 7: 6, 12-14

Wednesday, June 27

- 2 Kgs 22: 8-13; 23: 1-3
- Ps 119: 33-37, 40
- Mt 7: 15-20

Thursday, June 28

- 2 Kgs 24: 8-17
- Ps 79: 1b-5, 8-9
- Mt 7: 21-29

Friday, June 29

- Acts 12: 1-11
- 2 Tm 4: 6-8, 17-18
- Mt 16: 13-19

Saturday, June 30

- Lam 2: 2, 10-14, 18-19
- Ps 74: 1-7, 20-21
- Mt 8: 5-17

Sunday, May July 1

- Wis 1: 13-15; 2: 23-24
- 2 Cor 8: 7, 9, 13-15
- Mk 5:21-43 or 5: 21-24, 35b-43

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time June 30th and July 1st

4:00 p.m. – Saturday – Celebrant: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Cathy McPherson
Eucharistic Ministers: Karen McShane, Elizabeth Puleo-Tague, Matthew Strong
Altar Server: Ava Boley

8:30 a.m. – Sunday – Celebrant: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Norman Cure
Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Gatzke, Christopher Harrison, Joan Jackson, Maggie Jackson, Colleen Jogan, Steve Linne, Chris Walsh
Altar Servers: Alyssa Flores, Delaney Jackson

11:15 a.m. - Celebrant: Fr. Pelc **Lector:** Pat Sperti
Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Bennert, Anne Billiu, Doris Fleming, Joseph Hugh, Michael Mocer, Roger Playwin, Darryl Swiatkowski
Altar Servers: Grace Whitaker, Austin Sisco

Your Envelope Speaks . . . the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish

requires a *minimum* of..... \$10,100.00

On Sunday, June 17, 2018

in envelopes we received \$7,826.00

in the loose collection \$514.00

in electronic donations \$1,390.00

in children's envelopes..... \$3.00

for a total of..... **\$9,733.00**

Under budget for the week..... **\$367.00**

Number of envelopes mailed 900

Number of envelopes used..... 151

"...Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet." – ACTS 13:25

Stewardship is a lifestyle, it's not a program or a process. It's how we are called to live our lives twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week! It challenges us to live "God-centered" lives, not "self-centered" lives. Reflect on your daily activities, do you do them for the glory of God or for the glory of your own name?

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 Bucec, 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, Josephine DeCastris. and Sue Playwin.

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.

2	0	CSA
1	8	Box Scores

Number of Families	900
Returns to date	190
Average Gift ('17).....	\$440
Quota for the Archdiocese	\$87,418
Property/Liability Insurance ...	\$52,000
Parish '18 Target.....	\$139,418
Received as of 6/18/2018.....	\$95,369

- 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.

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 **TODAY**, 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.



Freedom House

St. Ambrose is hosting a fundraiser for Freedom House today, Sunday, June 24th.

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.



Join us on a 2 hour guided Kayak Canal tour on August 18. Paddle out to the Detroit River, around Grayhaven Island, past the Fisher Mansion and by the waterfront residences of Jefferson-Chalmers. Great for beginners and experienced kayakers alike. Barbeque after in Riverside-Lakewood East Park. To reserve your spot, email stambrose@comcast.net