JULY 15, 2018 BEEHIVE



# Putting the Eucharist Into Action

We live in anxious times. Even while regularly celebrating the joy of the Eucharist, we remain mindful of the pain and suffering in our world. In such a troubled world, Catholics often question how they can respond to the daily challenges and opportunities laid out before them with a sense of gratitude, joy and confidence, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. They wonder how they can put the Eucharist into action today.

The answer to both questions is to embrace a better understanding of our lives as Christian stewards. The mystery of the Eucharist celebrates change. We rejoice in God the Father, transforming His Son's suffering and death into the victory of new life and resurrection. We celebrate transformation as our gifts of bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of the Lord. The whole Christian life of stewardship gives us reason to hope and work for change as well — in ourselves, in the Church and in our world.

Stewardship always involves conversion — a change of mind and heart, something that cannot be expressed in one single action, but in a whole way of living. Stewardship offers us a way to re-focus our energy and provides an opportunity to face today's challenges. The re-discovery of stewardship as an ancient New Testament teaching is one of the good news stories in our Catholic life of faith.

Catholics in increasing numbers are being introduced to the message of stewardship and are studying how this concept informs their understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. As Saint Paul writes: "We are servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Cor. 4:1). As stewards, we understand that a grace-filled potential dwells within each of us that is constantly open to conversion and responsive to the love of God. Also within every human heart, the mystery of God lays dormant, waiting to be awakened by our words, our example or our actions.

As individuals, we have power we do not realize. Even our generous acts have power. Like the poor widow whom Jesus esteemed for placing two seemingly insignificant coins in the temple offertory, we have the power to build our community of faith through our generosity. Today, the witness to this power is most evident in those communities of faith that profess and practice stewardship.

What we learn from Christian stewardship is that we have an openness to change and respond, to let ourselves be new persons. As stewards, we recognize that all is gift, all is grace, and all things manifest the mystery of God's presence. Once we come to this conclusion, then we are more fully able to live the rest of our days in gratitude by celebrating and becoming Eucharistic people. Our work of stewardship is ultimately our way of saying thanks to God; our way of putting the Eucharist into action of prayer is a deeper commitment than people realize. In order to be good stewards of our relationship with the Lord we must commit our time, which should include setting aside periods for prayer, for the reading of sacred scripture, and for full participation in the celebration of the Eucharist and other sacraments.

# Living in Gratitude

Christian stewardship is the commitment made in response to God's generosity: to live a life of gratitude and to share oneself and one's gifts generously as circumstances and talents allow. God has endowed His followers with more gifts than they can imagine-life and faith, time and relationships, health, talents, skills and material wealth. Everything one has is a gift from God, and a good steward thanks God daily for these blessings.

Continued on page 2

### **Eucharist in Action**

Continued from page 1

### Making Choices that Glorify God

Stewardship means making daily, conscious choices that glorify God. Hundreds of decisions, large and small, are made daily that reveal a person's priorities. The axiom, "Tell me to what you pay attention and I will tell you who you are," holds true.

Too many times people allow self-glorification and the exaltation of wealth, social status, race, success, and their own sense of personal power get in the way of drawing closer to the Lord. However, one should be able to recognize the Christian steward by the place God has in his or her daily life. Christian stewards regard success, a high standard of living and the accumulation of material objects as secondary to a life of generosity, hospitality and the nurturing of personal relationships.

### **Sharing Gifts**

As Christians we recognize that our gifts of talents and skills are meant to be cultivated and shared with others, beginning with our family and friends, with those whom we gather to share the Eucharist and with the world. Sharing the gift of ourselves blesses our family of faith and blesses those whom that family hopes to touch. As Saint Peter teaches: "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace, each in the measure he has received" (1 Peter 4:10).

# Showing Compassion

Good stewards can be identified by their compassion toward the world and its needs, and especially by their generous support of the poor and needy, the oppressed, and the underprivileged of the world. Compassion is more than performing isolated good deeds. It is a commitment to a way of life that reveals care and concern for others. As stewards of the Good News, we are called and commissioned to reach out prayerfully in Jesus' name to offer a response to a world desperate to experience Christ's loving presence. Good stewards take to heart the words of the Lord on the day of judgment: "In truth I say to you, whatever you did to one of the least of my brothers, you did it to me" (Matt 25:40).

# Giving Back to God

One of the influential early Church Fathers and Doctor of the Church Saint John Chrysostom wrote: "There are three conversions necessary: The conversion of the heart, the conversion of the mind, and the conversion of the purse." Christian stewards acknowledge with gratitude that even their material wealth and financial resources ultimately come from God. And a conversion of the heart is needed before a conversion of one's wallet can take place. Exercising good stewardship over the money one makes, manages, spends and offers back to God is a tangible measure of their spiritual health.

### The Decision is Ours

Ultimately, stewardship comes down to personal decisions about how each of us lives out our commitment to discipleship and how each of us will respond to God's gifts based on our experience, self-knowledge and the call of God's grace. There is the paradoxical truth, hallowed in the New Testament, that by giving ourselves to someone or something beyond ourselves, we discover our own best self: "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (Matt 10:39).

Living as Christian stewards should bring a deeper and greater joy, and confidence about being disciples. Though Christians have not seen Christ, they are assured, by a faith truly lived and generously practiced, the joy, the peace and the life that comes to those who dare to believe and trust in Christ, our Lord. Giving generously to their parish, diocese and institutions of the universal Church is second nature to good stewards. They prayerfully reflect on their ability to give and return the first portion of their financial resources back to God. The good steward's desire is to put God first among his or her spending priorities. Again, they echo the psalmist's question: "What return shall I make to the Lord for all the good He has done for me" (Psalm 116:12). Christian stewards know the joy of giving.

### A Disciple's Response

The best way to respond to God's loving generosity is by reflecting that generosity day by day. What God does in Jesus' human life is a much magnified version of what happens when we take time for prayer, rearrange our schedule to be with someone who is lonely or despairing, when creative ways are devised to offer our talents for the benefit of our parish, or when family budgets and spending habits are reprioritized to conform more devotedly to the Gospel. The stewardship question is not, "Should I do these things?" but rather, "How much should I do?"

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Reprinted from an article by the International Catholic Stewardship Council Resource Center. catholicstewardship.com

# All Chings Considered

Last week I wrote about the ongoing repairs of the church property. I indicated that we had exhausted our rental money and some savings we had while there was still a lot of work to do on the ARK plaza. With still some back assessments to catch-up on and not seeing much surplus generosity in the weekly collection, I had no choice but to inform our contractor, Grunwell Cashero, that we needed to postpone these repairs until next year.

As grace would have it, someone read about that and made the offer to underwrite to cost of these repairs. What a great blessing and what a generous gift!

That happened on Sunday night. Then on the following Tuesday, repair men made a service call for our church air conditioning system that had struggled through the recent 100 degree heat wave. They informed us that one of the two condensers had "fried itself" and that it would have to be replaced. I didn't see that one coming!

To make matters worse, they indicated that the 30 year old unit was "archaic" by AC standards and that it was doubtful if Freon could be obtained in sufficient quantities to get the damaged portion of the system up and running even with a new condenser.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began phasing out Freon refrigerant in recent years because it was compounding the depletion of the Earth's ozone layer. By 2020, it will essentially no longer be allowed and we will have to change over our church and ARK systems to something more earth friendly.

How we got the air conditioner for the church in the first place is a remarkable story of generosity in itself. Following a funeral mass conducted in a sweltering building back in 1988, the widow of the deceased came to me and said that she would not want any other

family to go through the ordeal that she and her family had just gone through. She wrote a check that covered the cost of the church air conditioning after obtaining a promise from me that I was never to reveal the source of the gift — she wanted it to be anonymous. And so it has been for all these many years. So many thousands of people who have come to worship here in the summer — including those who have been here in sorrowful times like funerals and in happy times like weddings — all have enjoyed the gift given by that widow.

There are so many examples of gifts given to St. Ambrose Parish like that over the years! Too many in one sense, because we have all gotten used to "Santa" bringing us gifts. That unfortunately may have fostered a mentality that the ordinary man/woman in the pew does not have to step up to their responsibilities to support this parish.

Certainly not everyone is capable of making spectacular gifts like we've seen. But there has to be a sharing of the operations of the parish. When the collection basket comes to you – that's your cue to give your fair share.... however small or large.

XXX

# 2 0 CSA1 8 Box Scores

Number of Families
Returns to date
Average Gift ('17)\$440
Quota for the Archdiocese\$87,418
Property/Liability Insurance \$52,000
Parish '18 Target\$139,418
Received as of 7/10/18 \$ 112,005

• With our share of the burden of operating the Catholic Church in Southestern Michigan now satisfied, we are in a position to do our own parish some good. Everything donated to the CSA from this point onward will be applied to our property/liability insurance at 100%. No Archdiocesan 7% tax will be assessed. So far we are able to fund our premiums for 24 weeks. Last year, we funded 26 weeks of premiums.

Coming into town next week for the upcoming novena leading to the first feast day of Solanus Casey on the 30th will be **Paula Medina Zarate**, a retired teacher from Panama,who in 2012 knelt at the tomb of **Father Solanus Casey** at St. Bonaventure Monastery and received a life changing cure from a condition called *Ichthyosis*. The Capuchin Father who directed her to Solanus Casey was **Fr. Jozef Timmers**. He is now assigned to parish work in Saudi Arabia, but he too will be in town this week for part of the novena.

Both of them will be with us here at St. Ambrose for a special Mass and blessing of the sick service on Tuesday evening, July 24th at 7:00 p.m. That will be followed by an informal discussion with Señora Zarate. What a great opportunity it will be to pray and talk directly with someone who had a bonafide miracle worked for them. Plan on attending and bring the kids.

Check out the novena schedule at SolanusCasey.ord/Feast.

#### XXX

August 1st will mark the 30th anniversary of John Cardinal Dearden's passing. The Dearden Legacy Project is sponsoring an evening of prayer and remembrance in his memory of Wednesday, August 1st at St. Therese of Lisieux Parish in Shelby Township from 7 to 9 P.M.. You're invited to gather to celebrate this beloved leader of our Archdiocese (1958-1980) and to thank God for his vision, courage, integrity and love. A full church would be a tribute to the Cardinal's servant leadership and his seminal work on invigorating the Catholic Church through the Second Vatican Council. We'll organize a car pool, but we would have to know of your commitment by the 29th of the month.

Our friend "Jubilee" Judy Holmes heads up an effort to collect and publish the first comprehensive book about Cardinal Dearden entitled <u>Living the Wisdom of Vatican II</u>. If you would like to share a special memory, a sentence or two to describe your experience of the Cardinal, send that to her at judymholmes@comcast.net.

### Top Reasons to Become a Catechist

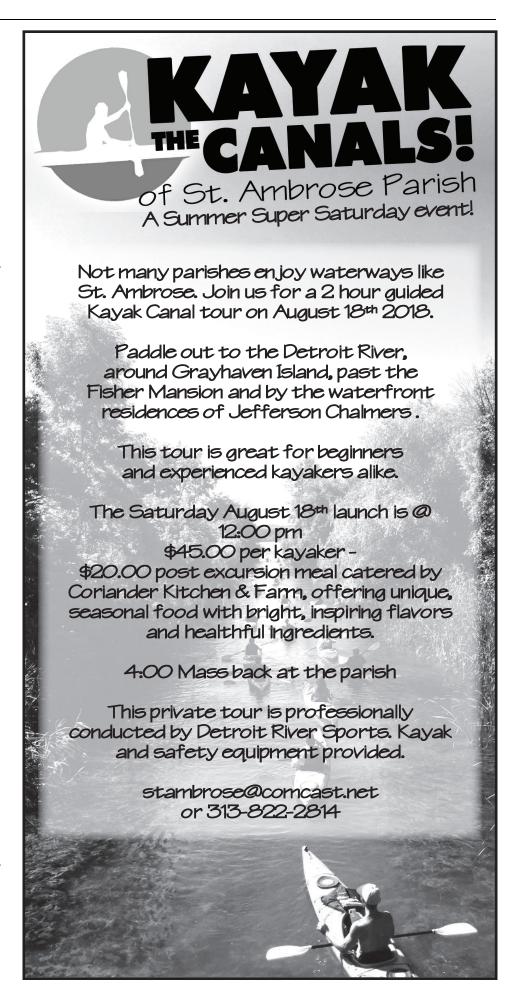
- 1. You will grow in your own faith, learn the teachings of the Church, and deepen your relationship with Jesus.
- 2. Your Baptism calls you to share in Jesus' ministry.
- 3. Children, teens, and adults in today's world, more than ever, need to hear the Good News of Jesus.
- 4. Children, teens, and adults in today's world, more than ever, need to encounter good role models of faith.
- 5. You have much to share with those you'll teach, and you'll have opportunities to share faith with other catechists.
- 6. Today's catechetical textbooks/resources offer outstanding support.
- 7. You'll be challenged, you'll have fun, and you'll make new friends.
- 8. You'll be helping people deepen their relationship with Jesus. You'll be evangelizing!
- 9. You'll be handing on a 2000-year-old tradition that changes lives.

10.It's our job: Jesus sent us to "go and teach all nations."

A number of catechists are needed based on last year's number of students. Typically, our religious education program serves approximately 300 children in 18 classrooms. We are always blessed to have a cadre of catechists who return year after year – and just as blessed to have new people step up to the plate (after hearing God's whispers).

So far, this year's program will need catechists for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades. In addition, we will need office assistance and classroom aides who may be adults or teens. It is good for our children to see that catechists comprise folks from all ages and all walks of life. Please prayerfully consider joining our team of catechists, aides and office volunteers who bring the Good News to our parish children.

To offer your talents as a catechist, please call Kelly Woolums at (313) 822-1248.



### **Faith Formation Stations**

Here's a collaborative prayer written by our catechists at our year end meeting and celebration. Everyone was invited to reflect on how our ministry impacted the students in the program – how we are the work of God's hands in the world.

Yours are the hands that helped show us how to make the Sign of the Cross, how to place our hands when we receive Holy Communion and how to use our hands to help others in need.

Yours are the hands that helped us learn about the 10 Commandments and the liturgical year plus led us in prayer and discussion, and guided us in creating a Cross decorated with Christian symbols.

Yours are the hands that helped me form new friendships that will last throughout my formal catechetical years at St. Ambrose. Yours are the hands that created activities, crafts, and prayers that helped me grow in my faith and gave me a bead to remember each lesson.

Yours are the hands that showed us that Saints have a great love of God; they are ordinary people who do extraordinary things. We can be saints too!

Yours are the hands helped teach us how our relationships with God and with others are the most important things in life. Live The 10 Commandments!

Yours are the hands that worked to help us understand the sacraments. Your hands helped us build on relationships so that we will have a bond strong enough to make it into middle school and beyond.

Yours are the hands that taught me about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and how the Catholic Church and Catholics give back in the world.

Yours are the hands that taught us about love and kindness, pointed us where we should go out into the world to proclaim the Gospel. Your hands have taught us that we must love to the extreme, showed us that we are children of God and we are all a Friend of God. Your hands have taught us to forgive even when it is difficult. Your hands taught us that salvation was born on Christmas and the Jesus is our salvation.

Yours are the hands that calmed and guided us into First Reconciliation. Yours are the hands that supported and encouraged us in First Communion.

Yours are the hands that taught me that the Ten Commandments mean Love God, Self, Neighbor.

Yours are the hands which encouraged us to be the hands and feet of Christ to the world. These hands taught us how to pray the Rosary. These hands helped us create prayer journals filled with the traditional Catholic prayers which we want to remember. These hands inspired us to want to fall in love with Jesus.

Yours are the hands that opened the doors and invited the Holy Spirit in each Sunday. Your hands directed me to my classroom each week and guided my catechists to share their gifts and talents with me faithfully.

Thank you Lord for helping us find ways to express the wonderful Good News of God in gestures of hands, bodies, and feet as we sing our Gospel songs on Sunday mornings.

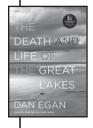
Dear Heavenly Father, our students are now holding hands with each other and with God. Thank you for your guiding creative hands helping children preparing for their sacraments and creating a deeper understanding of your love through art projects, games, prayer, study and conversation. May you continue to let your love work through our hands. Amen.

### PROGRAM REMINDERS: CATECHISTS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

There are openings for catechists in Grade 3 and Grade 5 as well as office assistant help. If you or someone you know might be called to "be the hands" in the ministry of sharing one's faith with the children of St. Ambrose parish, please consider joining our catechetical team. We will provide you with all the support you need. If interested, please call or email the office: (313) 822-1248 reled.stambrose@comcast.net.

### Kelly Woolums

# 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 Wotypka 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, July 16

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Tuesday, July 17

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Michael Pokladek

Wednesday, July 18

St. Camillus de Lellis, priest

8:30 - Morning Prayer

Thursday, July 19

8:30 a.m. - Tomas Carlos Busque, Jr. Bruno & Josephine Olejnik

Friday, July 20

St. Apollinaris, bishop & marty

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Bill Magee

Saturday, July 21

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

Sunday, July 22

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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



## Scriptures for the 15th Week of Ordinary Time

#### Monday, July 16

- Is 1: 10-17
- Ps 50: 8-9, 16-17, 21, 23
- Mt 10: 34-11: 1

#### Tuesday, July 17

- Is 7: 1-9
- Ps 48: 2-8
- Mt 11: 20-24

### Wednesday, July 18

- Is 10: 5-7, 13b-16
- Ps 94: 5-10, 14-15
- Mt 11: 25-27

#### Thursday, July 19

- Is 26: 7-9, 12, 16-19
- Ps 102: 13-21
- Mt 11: 28-30

### Friday, July 20

- Is 38: 1-6, 21-22, 7-8
- (Ps) Is 38: 10-12,.16
- Mt 12: 1-8

#### Saturday, July 21

- Mi 2: 1-5
- Ps 10: 1-4, 7-8, 14
- Mt 12: 14-21

### Sunday, May July 22

- Jer 23: 1-6
- Eph 2: 13-18
- Mk 6: 30-34



# Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 21st and July 22nd

4:00 p.m. - Saturday - Celebrant: Fr. Pelc Lector: Elizabeth Puleo-Tague **Eucharistic Ministers:** Adam Borkowski, Karen McShane, Mary Urbanski Altar Servers: Julianna Tague, Keirnan Taguwe

8:30 a.m. - Sunday - Celebrant: Fr. Bede Lector: Bob Gatzke **Eucharistic Ministers:** Colleen Drummond, Colleen Gatzke, Joan Jackson. Magie Jackson, Bob Jogan, Joellyn Valogi, Chris Walsh Altar Servers: Nicholas Kurta, Delaney Jackson

11:15 a.m. - Celebrant: Fr. Bede Lector: Kurt Vatalaro Eucharistic Ministers: Beverly Bennert, Anne Billiu, Joseph Hugh, Michael Moceri, Pat Moceri, Roger Playwin, Darryl Swiatkowski Altar Servers: Austin Sisco, Shea Vatalaro

# Your Envelope Speaks . . . the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish requires a *minimum* of......\$10,100.00 On Sunday, July 8, 2018 in envelopes we received ...... \$5,918.00 in the loose collection \$634.00 in electronic donations ...... \$1,390.00 in children's envelopes......\$3.25 Under budget for the week............. \$2,155.00 Number of envelopes mailed .................................. 900 Number of envelopes used......145

"He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick – no food, no sack, no money in their belts." MARK 6:8

How different we are from the Apostles who took nothing when they ventured out to serve God. Today, we make our life's journey more difficult because of all the material baggage that we drag along. When we really put God first in everything and put money and possessions second, we experience more freedom to joyfully serve God and others.

## 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 Sue Playwin and Lou Rondini.

# Our Dead

A funeral liturgy was celebrated by Fr. Bede Louzon, for John Charles Evans, age 67 on Tuesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

John attended St. Ambrose School and went on to serve his country in Vietnam. He was employed by the United States Postal Service and retired from there at the age of 55 to pursue his work working hobbies full time. He is survived by his wife, Katrina; three sons, John, Jason, Joshua and daughter Christine.



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- Track your donations
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# Help Us Transform Lives -

Our St. Vincent de Paul Conference here at St. Ambrose has a number of "regulars" who are always ready to do whatever needs to be done. But our group wouldn't be nearly as successful if we did not have the many people who volunteer to help us "as needed" or even just one time as specific situations come up.

Recently we were blessed with the opportunity to respond to a request from the mom of a family of five who had nothing, not even a chair to sit on, or forks, spoons or plates...nothing. She and her four children had just moved from another state to escape from ongoing domestic violence, .....and no transportation. Because several of you had made donations of furniture, some of you contributed cash, some housewares, blankets and sheets and towels, we were able to provide the family with beds to sleep on instead of the floor, a couch and two living room chairs, a table and chairs to eat on, kitchen ware, dishes, glasses, pots and pan, blankets, sheets, towels and other items. Some one we helped a few months ago offered the use of his station wagon along with his friend to move all of these items to the home of this family in need. Would you like to help us out from time to time without committing to meetings and regular programs? We'd love to have you. Have a truck or van and willing to transport furniture or have some muscle to help move it, let us know. Leave a message at the rectory 313-822-2814 or email rrennpage@gmail.com.Thanks for helping us tranform lives.

Randy Rennpage St. Vincent de Paul Conference President.

### Catholic Tent Revival

This Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, July 16th through the 18th, Fr. Theodore Parker, pastor of St. Charles Lwanga Parish will be heading up an old-fashioned revival meeting – in the Catholic model. The event will take place on the grounds of St. Charles located at 1044 Stoepel in Detroit. The schedule for each day begins at 4:00. with food; at 6:00., there will be praise and worship; and at 7:00 Fr. Parker will begin his teaching. Revival style music will be offered on Monday by the Metro Catholic Gospel Choir; on Tuesday by William Harrison; and on Wednesday by the Capuchin Soup Kitchen Choir. The revival is co-sponsored by the Office of Black Catholic Ministry for the Archdiocese of Detroit. All are welcome!

### CYO Football 2018

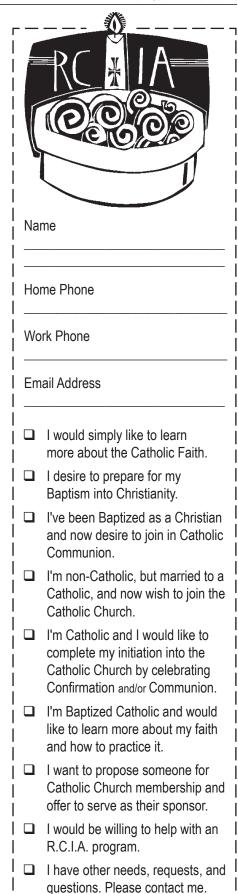
Register for the 2018 CYO Football season. St. Joan of Arc will field teams at four levels for the 2018 season; Flag (1st/2nd graders); Freshmen (3rd/4th); Junior Varsity (5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>); Varsity (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>). Contact football coordinators Dennis Shubnell (dennis. shubnell@gmail.com) or Kevin Shubnell (kevin.shubnell@gmail.com) or visitfacebook.com/sjafootballscs or web-site sja-football.weebly.com.

### **DETROIT SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**



Detroit Symphony Orchestra's will be performing Mendelssohn's First Symphony, on July 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3 p.m. at the Our Lady Star of the Sea on 467 Fairford Road in Grosse Pointe Woods.

St. Ambrose parishioners can use the special promo code: FIRST20 for discounted \$20 tickets. Purchase tickes online at dso.org/neighborhood



Return this to the Parish Rectory or place it in the

Collection basket.