# St. Ambrose Parish

SEPTEMBER 2, 2018
BEEHIVE



In the Catholic tradition, work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continued participation in God's creative action. In your own experience of work — in an office setting, serving others, as a student, or working in the home — how have you experienced work as a form of participation in God's creative action? When has it felt difficult to recognize the dignity of work? We can turn to this weekend's Scripture readings to help us in our reflection on work.

#### First Reading (Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8)

- •In the first reading, from the book of Deuteronomy, we hear this question: "What great nation has statutes and decrees that are as just as this whole law which I am setting before you today?"
- •For the ancient Israelites, God's gift of the law was a sign of his great fidelity, love, and care for the people. Their keeping of this law was a sign of their love and fidelity to God.
- What did the law entail? And why was God's law called "just"? We might be most familiar with the Ten Commandments (5:6 21), but the book of Deuteronomy is filled with many other details about the commands that the Israelites were to follow. Work and economic justice are topics that appear througout the book of Deuteronomy. For example: In Chapter 5 (v. 13 -15), God's law specifies that the Sabbath, including rest from work, is for everyone, regardless of class or status.
- Chapter 14 (v. 28 -29), includes instruction to save a portion, or tithe, of the produce to share with "the resident alien, the orphan and the widow within your gates."
- Chapter 24 (v. 14 -15) warns against exploiting those who are poor or foreign workers and to pay wages promptly "since the servant is poor and is counting on them. Otherwise the servant will cry to the LORD against you, and you will be held guilty."
- Chapter 27 (v.17-19) curses those who steal land from neighbors or who wrong those who are poor.

## Second Reading (James. 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27) and Gospel (Mark.7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23)

- In the letter of James, we hear "Be doers of the word and not hearers only" (v. 22).
- Mark's Gospel emphasizes the challenges of being doers, including our inclinations toward greed, deceit, theft, and other evils, which defile us and harm our relationship with God and neighbor (Mk. 7: 20-22).
- •As a society, these same evils existing in our hearts and in the structures that we create and perpetuate can deny the dignity of work and the rights of workers. For example, Pope Francis writes about greed and the idolatry of money, which can lead to our failure to prioritize the well-being of God's creation, including our human family: "So often we are driven by greed and by the arrogance of dominion, possession, manipulation and exploitation; we do not preserve nature; nor do we respect it or consider it a gracious gift which we must care for and set at the service of our brothers and sisters, including future generations" (Message for World Day of Peace 2014).

In a reflection on the biblical story of queen Jezebel, who has Naboth killed in order to acquire his vineyard (1 Kings 21), Pope Francis writes, "This is not a story of former times, it is also a story of today, of the powerful who, in order to have more money, exploit the poor, exploit people. It is the story of the trafficking of people, of slave labor, of poor people who work 'under the table' and for a minimal wage, thus enriching the powerful. It is the story of corrupt politicians who want more and more! This is why I said that it would be good for us to read what St. Ambrose wrote about Naboth, because this text is relevant to modern day. . . . That is where the exercise of authority without respect for life, without justice, without mercy leads" (General Audience, 2/24/16).

Where in your local community or around the world do you see the dignity of work or the rights of workers eroded? Pos-

#### **Dignity and Rights of Workers**

Continued from page 1

sible examples might include sub-wages for low-skill work; failure to provide maternity or family leave or other benefits; the wage gap that especially affects minorities and women; bad work conditions or withholding of wages from migrant workers; irresponsible corporate practices leading to environmental contamination, etc.

•Catholic teaching calls us to be concerned when employed persons seek work but cannot find it (see Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, no. 204), or when people are forced to accept work that pays too little to support a family (see St. John Paul II in Laborem Exercens, no. 18, on a "family wage"), or when employment fails to offer those life and dignity-affirming benefits that our long Catholic tradition affirms must be available for every worker and their families in the areas of sick leave, maternity leave, time for rest, and quality health insurance (see Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, no. 301). We are also called to be concerned when the goods we buy and the products we use every day were produced by people — sometimes even children — working under terrible conditions in poor countries (see Pope Francis, Message to Workers' Associations).

•As we reflect on the vision of Catholic teaching, and in the just laws of the book of Deuteronomy about the treatment of the poor and workers, or the other biblical warnings not to take economic advantage of others, or Mark's warnings against greed, we might ask ourselves: How can we help make God's vision of justice a reality? How can we, in our families, institutions, and as a society, better respect the dignity and rights of workers and the well-being of their families?

#### Our Response

In the workplace, if we are business owners, managers, or supervisors, we can help ensure that our businesses and organizations are offering family wages and the dignity-affirming benefits that our long Catholic tradition affirms should be available for every worker and their families.

We can use our purchasing power to help protect human dignity. We can be educated consumers, support local businesses and ethically-produced products, and let companies know when we are unhappy with their labor practices.

If we are responsible for purchasing goods in our workplaces, or even at home, we can try to purchase goods from companies with ethical practices. Catholic Relief Services has a CRS Ethical Trade website where you can purchase goods from companies that value fair prices, safer working conditions and environmentally sustainable practices at home and around the world.

We can also join local efforts to support a living wage/family wage, which is a wage at which workers and their families can have access to what they need to fulfill basic needs and thrive. Be sure to to assist workers and their families in our community, and support their needs through advocacy or other efforts.

These are challenging things to do! Sometimes following God's "just laws" can be difficult. But we pray that like the early Christian disciples to whom James wrote, we can "Be doers of the word and not hearers only" (James 1:22), so that we can put into practice the call to respect the dignity of work and the rights of workers.

This Labor Day, reflect on the dignity of work by visiting www.usccb.org/jphd to read the annual Labor Day statement from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

This Labor Day, use your power as a consumer to support companies that value fair prices, safe working conditions and environmentally sustainable practices at home and around the world. Check out the Catholic Relief Services Ethical Trade website (ethical-trade.crs.org/) which connects consumers with products produced in ethical manners.

From the Justice, Peace and Human Development Committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more information log onto usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/labor-employment.

## All Chings Considered

Parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit operate on a Fiscal Year, not a Calendar Year. It just works out better since our programs tend to operate on a late-Summer to late-Summer schedule. The following information reflects the financial operation of St. Ambrose Parish from July 2017 through June 2018.

#### **OVERVIEW**

For FY 17-18, total parish operating receipts amounted to \$1,225,002, a decrease of \$61,872 or 4.81% from FY 16-17. This was primarily due to a decrease in offertory collections (which was partially offset by an increase in Christmas collections) and decreases in other collections/donations, fund raising income, and rental income.

On the other hand, parish operating expenses in FY 17-18 went up by \$101,341 or 8.14% over FY 16-17 due to increases in plant maintenance expenses, administrative expenses and worship expenses. As a result of the decrease in operating income and the increase in operating expenses, the parish's net operating profit went down by \$248,512 or 102% from \$242,698 in FY 16-17 to a net loss of \$5,814 in FY 17-18.

#### **OPERATING RECEIPTS**

#### 1. Offertory Collections

We have observed for some time now that the weekly envelope has been lagging behind budget projections even in peak attendance seasons. This is in spite of no budgeted increase in that revenue over the past few years. For FY 17-18, the parish received \$486,576 in offertory collections (envelope, loose, children, and holydays) or \$9,357 per week, which was a decrease of \$1,985 or 17.5% of the weekly collection of \$11,342 in FY 16-17. Actual offertory collections for FY 17-18 did not meet budget by \$82,223 or 14.45%.

#### 2. Christmas Collections

The best news of the whole report just may be the size and enthusiasm the parish showed for the end-of-the-year Christmas collection. The parish budgeted \$65,000 for Christmas 2017. The actual Christmas collections, however, came in at \$159,446 or \$94,446 or 145% better than budget projections. Remarkably it exceeded FY 16-17 Christmas collections by \$95,223 or 148%. This may indicate a trend among contributors who seem to prefer making their donations to the parish during the "window" which exempts their funds from the standard 7% Archdiocesan assessment. The influx of capital at the end of the calendar year is a welcome relief, but a decrease in envelope donations the other weeks of the year makes staying current with monthly bills tricky, particularly during times of lean attendance like mid-Winter and during the Summer.

#### 3. Fund Raising Income

Gross fund raising income for FY 17-18 came in at \$127,650, which was \$54,620 or 30% less than the \$182,270 raised in FY 16-17. This reflects the expected decrease in pledge redemptions for the Changing Lives Together Campaign and an unexpected decrease in Oysterfest revenue. The new set-up for Oysterfest is appreciated by almost everybody, but it comes with a higher price and that has not been offset by a commensurate increase in attendance.

A bi-fiscal year comparative breakdown of the sources of fund raising income is shown below:

		FY 2016-2017	<u>FY 2017-2018</u>
•	CSA Excess Quota	\$ 39,885	\$ 34,984
•	Changing Lives Together Campaign	41,707	3,861
•	Festivals and raffles	<u>100,878</u>	80,805
	TOTAL	<u>\$182,270</u>	<b>\$127,650</b>

EX 2017 2017

EX 2015 2010

#### 4. Rental Income

Gross rental receipts on Merit Academy for FY 17-18 was \$389,027, which was \$33,441 or 2.65% less than FY 16-17 actual receipts of \$422,468. The reason for this discrepancy is that rental revenue for June 2018 from National Heritage was not yet booked or recorded due to a timing difference. The parish continues to market the convent building to potential lessees. In the past year, two potential tenants spent a great deal of time trying to make their budgets fit the space. In order to make the property marketable, the parish might have to invest in capital improvements or seek grants in cooperation with a non-profit tenant. Hopefully, the parish will be able to lease it in the future. In the meantime, the parish continues to insure and maintain the building and provide grounds keeping and snow removal at an annual cost of approximately \$30,000.

#### **OPERATING EXPENSES**

A comparison of actual expenses by major cost center versus the budget for FY 17-18 is shown below:

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>
ADMINISTRATION	380,948	336,093	44,855
WORSHIP	160,307	116,453	43,855
CHRISTIAN SERVICE	3,187	4,000	( 813)
PLANT OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	482,805	368,167	114,638
OTHER			
EXPENSES	167,091	355,388	(188,297)
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	78,272	91,558	( 13,286)
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	<u>13,503</u>	<u>0</u>	<u> 13,503</u>
TOTALS	<u>1,286,113</u>	<u>1,271,659</u>	<u> 14,454</u>

- 1. Administration Actual cost is over budget by \$44,855 due to slight increases in office operations, salaries and benefits. A reworking and an upgrade to the communication systems phone, internet, and cable expense accounted for much of the increase. Give-away/hospitality items such as ordination/farewell receptions for Deacon interns made this an especially expensive year.
- 2. Worship This cost center came in over budget by \$43,855 or 38% due to an increase in visiting/weekend clergy stipends, music (musicians) and other costs such as flowers, seasonal decorations for the altar and hymnals and printed song sheets.
- **3.** Christian Service This cost center is under budget. The majority of the day-to-day charitable outreach happens in collaboration with the St. Vincent dePaul Society.
- 4. Operations and Maintenance Actual cost was over budget by \$114,638 due to exceptionally expensive snow and ice removal costs for the past Winter and Spring. There were also additional contracted services for repairs that could not be done by our in-house personnel. In addition, higher utilities costs exceeded budget by \$49,000 or roughly half of the increased total.
- 5. Other Expenses This represents payments made by the parish for the assessment imposed by the Archdiocese on the operating income of the parish as well as catching up with some past year's assessments that were delayed during the period of time when we were aggressively paying-off the building/renovation loan.
- 6. Christian Education Actual cost is under budget by \$13,286 or 14.5% even after increased spending on textbooks, instructional materials and allocated share of property insurance, security and cleaning.
- 7. Capital Expenditures Actual expenditures amounted to \$13,503 for technology equipment and furnishing replacement following a flood. There was no budget allocation for capital expenditures for FY 17-18.

### **CSA Box Scores**

Number of Families
Returns to date 261
Average Gift ('17)\$440
Quota for the Archdiocese\$87,418
Property/Liability Insurance \$52,000
Parish '18 Target\$139,418
Received as of 8/19/2018\$ 122,139

 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 34 weeks.



1st Prize: Samsung 65" Class 4K **Ultra HD LED-LCD Smart TV** 

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize:

Samsung 50" Class 4K **Ultra HD LED-LCD Smart TV** 

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Samsung 32" Class 1080p HD LED-LCD TV

Drawing at the Twenty-Eighth Annual St. Ambrose **OYSTERFEST** on Monday, Sept. 24, 2018 at 9:00pm 15200 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Park

Raffle sponsored by:

Health Management Systems of America

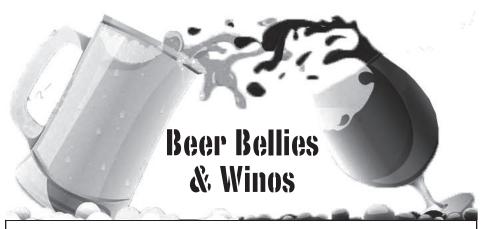


Metropolitan Detroit is rapidly being made over in ways that will define its future. We've invited persons knowledgeable in the field of Detroit's makeover to talk with us. Hear their visions of the 'City to come.' These sessions are Sundays from 9:45 until 11 a.m. in the ARK

September 9 Are Detroit neighborhoods neglected? John Gallagher, senior business editor at the Detroit Free Press comes to debunk the persistent myth that the only significant development is Downtown.

October 7 – Reclaiming the River – The Riverfront Conservancy will be here with lots of great images to show and exciting news about the changes happening along River Walk, including a new park on the west riverfront.

October 14 - Bedrock Reaches for the Stars - Melissa Dittmer, head of architecture for Dan Gilbert's real estate arm of Bedrock, will be here to talk about a project that will forever change the skyline and image of Detroit.



A fun way of displaying your support for St. Ambrose Oysterfest – and your appreciation of the grain or the grape – is to become a Beer Belly or a Wino Sponsor. This personal sponsorship gives you one ticket to the Oysterfest redeemable in the express entrance lane – a T shirt – a commemorative beer glass or wine goblet – plus a token for your first fill.

All of this comes packaged in the appropriate "brown paper bag" with a Beer Belly or Wino Badge that you can proudly wear during the event.

Beer Belly and Wino personal sponsorships are available at \$100 and make a nice gift for someone you are bringing to the event, or for yourself! Place your order by logging onto stambrosechurch.net; then go to the the giving tab. You can also call the rectory at 313-822-2814, or fill out the form that you'll find at the back of church. State your preference for a beer glass or wine goblet as well as the size of T-shirt (small through 2XL).

Purchase your Beer Belly or Wino sponsorship online: stambrosechurch.net or at our parish office.

#### The Buzz

Hard to believe that it's already September which means we're two-thirds of the way through the calendar year! And although Monday's Labor Day holiday marks the unofficial end of summer, I hope you will continue to be filled with the warmth of God's love and enjoy richly the gifts of creation.

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And since this is Labor Day weekend, how do you look at work? Everyone seems to have an opinion, a philosophy, a critique, etc. about some aspect of the topic. Do you remember how it was connected to immigration issues in relatively recent political campaigns ... and how it is or isn't reappearing in this year's elections?

I remember being deeply struck some years ago when I was challenged to read both the second as well as third chapters of Genesis in trying to determine whether human labor was part of an original blessing or part of a punishment for original sin. Read very carefully for yourself and see what you find. Our attitudes and values, our decisions and choices can really be shaped by what we believe about this origin.

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In the light of Labor Day, and in the light (or darkness if you will) of what's going on in the larger Church these days, I find myself reflecting on the implications for OUR work as disciples of Jesus. With too much discouragement going around, it's easy if not reasonable to give up and quit on faith.

There are two things helping me right now. One is to see our discipleship more from the perspective of family membership than from a corporate-consumer relationship. I think it's one of the rare and special qualities YOU have (and continue to live) at St. Ambrose. It is very attractive (read: real evangelization) and transcends the sins and evil that go on at other institutional levels. This is where Jesus lives. Just read again today's passages from James and Mark in the Liturgy.

The second thing helping me right now is a meditation on the *ex opere operato* ramifications of Baptism and Eucharist. Now lest I try to rise inadequately to the esoteric level of our Capuchin friend, Fr. Wotypka, let me leave this one as a fun teaser to have you ask me about sometime in a conversation. At least I'll have fun.

The bottom line is that I'm glad we're together working to mutually support, to better see, to embrace, and to live the truest values of the Lord for the sake of others. It is just wrong to let anyone or anything take such a faith away from us.

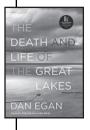
And one more important thought about Labor Day and the Church ... our work as disciples should know no bounds. Jesus' mission of life is for everyone. Our touchstone with this global dimension of the Church's work is why we welcome **Fr. Kevin Sanministrado** this weekend to share with us about missionary activity in another land. In a brief telephone conversation earlier this week, I learned that he most recently has been serving in the Dominican Republic ... and that this is his first visit to the United States. Let's join in this bigger missionary labor of catholic love by our welcoming, our genuine hearing of his message, and our generous proclamation of support for this work. It'll be good preparation for next Sunday's Gospel! See if you agree.

Chuck Dropiewski

#### **Vincentian Reflection**

The Gospel today hits home closer than we may think. What traditions do we blindly cling to? Perhaps it is enough for us just to go to Mass on Sunday? Do we keep the letter of the law and miss entirely the spirit of the law. Interior righteousness means a heart turned to God. Purity of heart is expressed in righteous living: self-giving for the sake of others. As you give your gift to the poor through the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, in your heart you also will find the good news of God's love.

## 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:

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, September 3

St. Gregory the Great, Pope & Doctor
Office Closed - No Services

Tuesday, September 4

8:30 a.m.- Mass - The Toth Family

Wednesday, September 5

St. Teresa of Calcutta

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Thursday, September 6

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Merrie Lynn Ruzzin

Friday, September 7

8:30 am Mass - Paul & Peggy Sulek

Saturday, September 8

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

Sunday, September 9

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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



## Scriptures for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Week of Ordinary Time

#### Monday, September 3

- 1 Cor 2: 1-5
- Ps 119: 97-102
- Lk 4: 16-30

#### Tuesday, September 4

- 1 Cor 2: 10b-16
- Ps 145: 8-14
- Lk 4: 31-37

#### Wednesday, September 5

- 1 Cor 3: 1-9
- Ps 33: 12-15, 20-21
- Lk 4: 38-44

#### Thursday, September 6

- 1 Cor 3: 18-23
- Ps 24: 1-6
- Lk 5: 1-11

#### Friday, September 7

- 1 Cor 4: 1-5
- Ps 37: 3-6, 27-28 39-40
- Lk 5: 33-39

#### Saturday, September 8

- Mi 5: 1-4 or Rom 8: 28-30
- Ps 13: 6
- Mt 1: 1-16, 18-23 or 1: 18-23

#### Sunday, September 9

- Is 35: 4-7a
- Jas 2: 1-5
- Mk 7: 31-37

## Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time September 8<sup>th</sup> and September 9<sup>th</sup>

4:00 p.m. – Saturday – Celebrant: Fr. Bede Lector: Cathy McPherson Eucharistic Ministers: Elizabeth Puleo-Tague, Matthew Strong, Mary Urbanski Altar Servers: Jack Hern, Sean Hall

8:30 a.m. – Sunday – Celebrant: Fr. Bede Lector: Bob Gatzke
Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Drummond, Colleen Gatzke, Joan Jackson,
Maggie Jackson, Bob Jogan, Steve Linne, Joellyn Valgoi
Altar Servers: Erica, Corey, & Carrigan McGraw

11:15 a.m. - Celebrant: Fr. Pelc Lector: Leslie Leitch
Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Bennert, Anne Billiu, Doris Fleming,
Pat & Michael Moceri, Janis Ramsey, Cristina Swiatkowski
Altar Servers: Dominik & Malvina Lubanski

## Your Envelope Speaks . . . the Inside Story

"Be doers of the word and not hearers only..." JAMES 1:22

It's easy to understand the definition of stewardship. The hard part is living it! What do you do to live God's word? Do you share your time in prayer with God? Do you use your talent to help those in need? Are you generous with your financial resources? If not, what are you waiting for?

#### **Our Sick**

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Maria Chinchilla, Karen Culver, Ann Sullivan Kay, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, 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, Frank Gregory, Josephine DeCastris, Alex Billiu and Albina Checki.

#### While on Vacation

Our parish is equipped to make electronic transfers from your checking account or credit card on our website. Christian Financial Credit Union brings you the ability to make an electronic contribution to St. Ambrose on a regular or on a one-time basis. Your checking account or credit card may be used to make a single donation; or you may set up automatic weekly, monthly or quarterly contributions on a schedule. Go to stambrosechurch.net for more information on electronic giving.

#### Marian Pilgrimage

On Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, the feast day of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, you are welcome to join in a Prayer Pilgrimage to St. Mary's Orchard Lake & Hamtramck's Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church. Highlights during the day include participation in a special Marian Feast Day Mass & Guided Tours.

Deluxe motorcoach scheduled departures from Oakland Mall in Troy, Levagood Park in Dearborn, as well as from Orchard 14 Lot in Farmington Hills. Cost per person is \$50; which includes a full course meal. To reserve and/or more information: Michael Semaan at (248) 250-6005 or prayerpilgrimages.com.













