

## It's OYSTERFEST TIME!

It's time for Oysterfest – where the hottest restaurants serve up a culinary storm accompanied by the coolest of sounds of the Bob Mervak Trio – and where spirited groups of friends and neighbors gather for one last summer celebration. Please join us for our 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Oysterfest. Here's what we'll have in store for you:

Sample signature dishes from some of the area's most notable restaurants, including such favorites as • Antonio's in the Park • Blue Bay Fish & Seafood • Bogartz • Brownie's on the Lake • Buoy 12 • Cadieux Café • Golabki by Janet • Harvard Grill • Licavoli's Italian Market and Pizzeria • Mimi's Bistro • National Coney Island • Park Grill • Plaza Mexico • Red Crown • Side Street Diner • Sindbad's • Sprout House • Srodek's Campau Quality Sausage Co. • Trattoria Serventi • Verticle Catering • The Whiskey Six and more!

For the 28<sup>th</sup> year, Chef Ken LeFevre will once again present the Oysterfest's signature Seafood Chowder. And Chef Vonzell Whaley will be cooking up pulled pork sandwiches using a recipe from his late father, ARK Chef Fred Whaley.

Enjoy scrumptious desserts from  
• Josef's European Pastry Shop • The Cabbage Patch Café • Dish • Johnny B.'s Cookies • and some talented St. Ambrose bakers.

Quench your thirst with some locally brewed specialties from Atwater Brewery, along with an array of craft brews. Wine drinkers can sample selections from the Village Wine Shop and Village Market. There will be water and soft drinks courtesy of Beacon Pointe, Absopure, and fresh brewed Cadillac Coffee.

So join us – Oysterfest benefits St. Ambrose Parish community activities and best of all, provides a fantastic time under the tent on Kercheval.





Name

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Home Phone

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Work Phone

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Email Address

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- ☐ I would simply like to learn more about the Catholic Faith.
- ☐ I desire to prepare for my Baptism into Christianity.
- ☐ I've been Baptized as a Christian and now desire to join in Catholic Communion.
- ☐ I'm non-Catholic, but married to a Catholic, and now wish to join the Catholic Church.
- ☐ I'm Catholic and I would like to complete my initiation into the Catholic Church by celebrating Confirmation and/or Communion.
- ☐ I'm Baptized Catholic and would like to learn more about my faith and how to practice it.
- ☐ I want to propose someone for Catholic Church membership and offer to serve as their sponsor.
- ☐ I would be willing to help with an R.C.I.A. program.
- ☐ I have other needs, requests, and questions. Please contact me.

Return this to the Parish Rectory or place it in the Collection basket.

## Motor City Makeover

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

**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.

## School of Evangelization Retreat

Our Vicariate is hosting a special all-day retreat NEXT Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at St. Joan of Arc Parish. Our Religious Education Director, Kelly Woolums, is part of the planning committee for this event and strongly recommends this program to anyone who is interested in learning more about deepening one's connection to the Holy Spirit and sharing the Good News with others.

The School of Evangelization Retreat will be led by the priests and seminarians of the Companions of the Cross. Workshop topics include the following:

- The New Evangelization and Why it Matters
- The Kerygma and Sharing the Gospel
- Spirituality and the Heart of the Evangelist
- Sharing Your Personal Testimony
- The Power of the Holy Spirit
- How to Use Your Gifts in Prayer Ministry.

If you are interested in attending the retreat, reserve a spot by contacting the religious education office at [reled.stambrose@comcast.net](mailto:reled.stambrose@comcast.net) or (313) 822-1248.

## Beer Bellies & Winos

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](http://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](http://stambrosechurch.net) or at our parish office.

# All Things Considered

Who would have ever thought that what began as a simple fundraiser, inspired by a teacher at St. Ambrose academy who moonlighted as a waitress at Tom's Oyster Bar, would turn into one of the most anticipated social events of fall in the Grosse Pointes?

**OYSTERFEST XXVIII** is only a day away. On Monday, look for us under the tents on Kercheval and Lakepointe – our third and largest location since leaving the original site at Mack and Wayburn. We've intentionally kept the party off of church property in order to attract those who would "never go to a church party." By inserting our event into the local business district, we send the signal that St. Ambrose understands that we need to take our message outside of our own small campus.

So, it's a "go" no matter what the weather may be on Monday night. Remember, that now, there is a lot more room inside the tent. Grab a couple of extra tickets today to gift to a neighbor or someone at work. It's a great way of introducing them to our St. Ambrose community – a place quirky enough to hold a festival featuring the *oyster*!

The event unravels if you talk yourself into not showing up.

Give us your personal stamp of approval by becoming a **BEER BELLY** or a **WINO** personal sponsor. Membership has its privileges. In addition to a speedy admission badge, you'll receive a cool, new poly-carbonate beverage glass, a free drink and an Oysterfest T-shirt which you can proudly wear at the event – and after.

The parking issues for Oysterfest we've had in the past have been greatly improved with the addition of two free transportation services. The first is the Kercheval Trolley which will be running on Monday from 4:30 to 9:30 P.M. So park or walk to any of the three shopping districts on Kercheval and hop on the Trolley which will take you right to our tent entrance.

The second transportation convenience is a van shuttle service that will run in a loop between our parking lot and the event. This may be best for those needing boarding assistance, or for those who are working the event and have to negotiate specific times for their arrival and departure.

Everybody would like a fancy new TV! Make sure to increase your chances by purchasing more raffle tickets today or during the Oysterfest itself! And remember to return your raffle tickets before the drawing at 9 p.m. on Monday.

A new company is on hand for the tent – but we've kept the same enjoyable configuration we have had in the past. Oysters from the cold waters of the Atlantic will be flown in Monday morning from Foley's in Boston. We have 30+ restaurants who will provide a food-tasting to complement these tasty bi-valves.

Oysterfest is as much about food and drink as it is about great music. This year's entertainment, **The Bob Mervak Trio**, has a strong musical presence in the Detroit music scene since 1997. The trio was in residence at Woodruff's in Royal Oak for several years, a venue they credit for much of their development.

A special thank you to this year's sponsors **The A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Fund** at the **Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan**, **MGM Grand Detroit**, **Christian Financial Credit Union**, **Ally Financial Inc.**, **Comerica Bank**, **Dr. G. Martin & Dr. C. Nordby**, **Mr. David Lubanski & Dr. Carrie Lynn Dul**, **Thomas & Beverly Bennert**, **Lesnau Printing** and **Health Management Systems of America**.

I never would have thought that this idea would grow as it has and last for more than a quarter century. We're happy and proud to continue to throw a party that solidifies our neighborhood and parish.

TRP

## OYSTERFEST Raffle

**1<sup>st</sup> 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**

Raffle sponsored by: Health Management Systems of America



Drawing on Monday, September 24, 2018  
at 9:00 p.m. at 15200 Kercheval

## 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 other Catholics at the campus ministry at their chosen college. It serves as their “parish” while away from their home parishes, uniting them in prayer, and helping them grow in their faith – thus creating a community of Catholic students nationwide.

Newman Centers are located at Catholic and non-Catholic universities throughout the world. They were named in honor of Cardinal John Henry Newman the 19<sup>th</sup> century’s most important English speaking Anglican/Roman Catholic theologian.

If you or your son or daughter are in college now, go to [newmanconnection.com](http://newmanconnection.com). Get connected, unite in prayer, and grow in faith.

## Faith Formation Station

Last Sunday all of the religious education families, volunteers, and the greater St. Ambrose community celebrated the beginning of our faith formation year with an opening liturgy and blessing followed by a program meet and greet. It was inspiring to see so many of our religious education families together sharing in the celebration of the Lord’s Day; I can think of no better way to begin our faith formation journey for the year. May we continue to come together to give witness to our faith at Mass each week before or after our religious education classes.

I want to thank all of our catechists, classroom assistants, and office assistants for answering the call to the ministry of catechesis. May God bless the work of all of our hands and hearts working together this year. We are truly grateful for the following volunteers:

- Kindergarten: Delaney Jackson – Catechist, Elizabeth Perotta - Assistant
- Grade 1A: Eileen Marshall – Catechist, Emily Esmacher & Kate Skupien - Assistants
- Grade 1B: Mary Grech & Colleen Gatzke – Catechists, Grace Whitaker - Assistant
- Grade 2A: Melissa Keagle – Catechist, Megan Hedemark & Maura Shine – Assistants
- Grade 2B: Kim Truza & Victoria Hugh – Catechists, Grace Vethacke & Agata Lubanski - Assistants
- Grade 3A: Michelle Martin – Catechist, Sarune Baer & Samantha Martin – Assistants
- Grade 3B: Michelle White – Catechist, Natalie White & Shannon Kerr - Assistants
- Grade 4A: Lauri Read & Kurt Vatalaro – Catechists, Shea Vatalaro & William Strickler - Assistants
- Grade 4B: Grant Ruttinger – Catechist, Anna Carron & Mia Liburdi - Assistants
- Grade 5A: Arinda Mele – Catechist, Madeline Hass – Assistant
- Grade 5B: Ronald Mele – Catechist, Erina Nazarko - Assistant
- Grade 6A: Jessica Kodanko – Catechist, Audrey Whitaker & Liam Liburdi - Assistants
- Grade 6B: Laura Bush-Terry – Catechist, Jack Corrión & Evan Kvintus - Assistants
- Grade 7A: Brendan O’Byrne – Catechist, Ben Corrión - Assistant
- Grade 7B: John Clark – Catechist, Donald McGlone – Assistant
- Grade 8A: Nicole Flynn – Catechist, Tim Zilli - Assistant
- Grade 8B: Daniel Clark – Catechist, Fiona O’Byrne - Assistant
- Grade 9A: Wil Moin – Catechist
- Grade 9B: Elizabeth Puleo-Tague – Catechist
- Music Ministry: George Bush & Lizzie High
- Office: Sandra Moffitt, Alfonso Flores, Kelly Garceau, Vince Rouleau

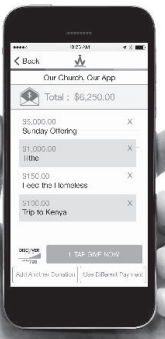
Our catechetical team of volunteers began our year together with a meeting on Sunday as well. Together we explored how we can Unleash the Gospel and bring to life in our program our call to “Go and make disciples of all nations!” We focused on our call to discipleship and that as disciples we have been called to walk with our students, their families, and one another on their journey of faith. We talked about our goals for the year moving beyond the classroom syllabus to leading our students to encounter Jesus through prayer, community, in the Word, in stories, friendship, acts of kindness, silence, creativity, art, and music. We recognized the need for our own spiritual growth as well so that we can share our love of Christ with others. Our opening prayer echoed the heart of our mission – the spirit of love – expressed in Pope Benedict XVI’s Message for the 28th World Youth Day: “To evangelize means to bring the Good News of salvation to others and to let them know that this Good News is a person: Jesus Christ. ... The more we know Christ, the more we want to speak about him. The more we are won over by Christ, the more we want to draw others to him. ... It is the Spirit of love, therefore, who is the driving force behind our mission.” As we prayed together and shared stories of our personal calling to be catechists, I can tell you that there was so much love and grace in the room – the Holy Spirit is at work in our program. The true gift and delight of my ministry is to work with such an extraordinary group of people. St. Ambrose is truly blessed with amazing catechists.


Kelly Woolums

# Givelify


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- Track your donations
- Make us your home church on Givelify
- Free to download and use

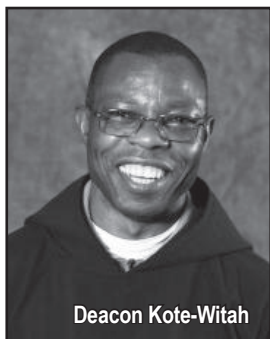




[givelify.com/app](http://givelify.com/app)







Deacon Kote-Witah

## Journey of Hope

Christ-man Unveiled God's Mystical Journey of Hope

A beautiful encounter was during the 12 Steps spirituality meeting group at the Soup Kitchen, which depicted also a journey of hope. Many share their grief, pains and hopeful joy. Br. Ed Conlin, in charge of the group, challenges and encourages people to share their stories and inspire others in the group. Ed shares how he, as a white man, was uncomfortable seeking a job opportunity as an addiction counselor in a black neighborhood. Since he had never worked among Black American folk it became a struggle for him. One day Ed encountered a homeless (Christ-man) without fingers.

As Ed was distributing sandwiches, he handed a sandwich to the homeless man. But the man kept holding back his hands; and it was unknown to Ed that the man's ten fingers were amputated. Shamefully, he stretched his arms to grasp the food yet he was struggling to unwrap the sandwich. But Ed quickly walked straight to him and unwrapped the food for him. He thanked Ed and told him: "You are right where you are supposed to be!" A few days later Ed was permanently hired and he recalled what he was told by the Christ-man.

This day and age, how often we are not aware how God uses someone to whom we pay no attention – to bless us. Truly, the Christ-man unveiled God's mystery to bless Br. Ed with a job that included this favor done to him by Ed. So for me I believe it is fitting to serve any destitute person without allowing any judgement to get in the way. Rightly so, the Christ-man was sent to build a joyful journey of hope and courage in Ed.

Following this compelling story, Jonathan, a recovering addict, said, "One should not forget where s/he came from, because our presence in the 12 Steps spiritual meeting today was already ordained by God." That is why the 12 Steps meetings attract people from all over the world: students from Germany, Ireland, Austria, and Belgium to be a part of the program. These international students came to Detroit for their social works for summer assignments. They get involved in the 12 Steps at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and to serve the poor. It was interesting to listen to those recovering addicts as they all concurred that members of this 12 Steps are not a mistake but lovable children of God. I learned from them that addiction is not just about drugs or alcohol. Rather, it encompasses many things including people who have been manipulated or deceived for one's own self-interest, which is contrary to the plan of God for our lives. Believing in one's self in the recovery process might take a great deal of effort. The purposes of the meetings are not simply to provide instructions to fix stuff, but to share one's own life stories and testimonies in order to heal one another. Therefore, the Christ-man presented us with a remarkable mystery of God and he invites you and me to uphold our faith in God and be grateful with a delightful freedom of positive joy in our service to God through one another.

Dn. Anthony Kote-Witah, OFM Cap.

## Detroit Historic Sites

Next Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, the feast day of the Archangel St. Michael, you are welcome to join Prayer Pilgrimages on a pilgrimage to St. Joseph Oratory, Old St. Mary's Church, St. Bonaventure Monastery, Detroit Institute of Arts, & Eastern Market with Holy Mass & guided tours. Deluxe motorcoach scheduled departures from Oakland Mall in Troy, Levagood Park in Dearborn, & Orchard 14 Lot in Farmington Hills. Total cost per person is \$40. To reserve and/or more information: Michael Semaan at (248) 250-6005 or prayerpilgrimages.com.

2	0	CSA
1	8	Box Scores

Number of Families .....	900
Returns to date .....	262
Average Gift ('17).....	\$440
Quota for the Archdiocese .....	\$87,418
Property/Liability Insurance ...	\$52,000
Parish '18 Target.....	\$139,418
Received as of 9/11/2018.....	\$ 122,639

• With the Archdiocesan quota 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.



Join us on Facebook  
facebook.com/stambroseparish

## The Beehive

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

**Pastor:** Rev. Timothy R. Pelc

**Assistant:** Dn. Anthony Kote-Witah, OFM, Cap

**Pastoral Minister:** Charles Dropiewski

**Religious Education:** Kelly Anne Woolums

**Minister of Music:** Dr. 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) 332-5633

**Pastoral Ministry:** (313) 332-5631

**Ark Scheduling:** (313) 822-2814

**Parish Website:** stambrosechurch.net

# Liturgy Schedule for the Coming Week

**Monday, September 24**

8:30 - Morning Prayer

**Tuesday, September 25**

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Viola Carruthers;

Thomas and Josephine Pelc

**Wednesday, September 26**

*St Cosmas & Damian, martyrs*

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

**Thursday, September 27**

*St. Vincent DePaul, priest*

11:00 a.m. - Funeral - Ernest DuMouchelle

**Friday, September 28**

*St. Wenceslaus, martyr*

*St. Lawrence Ruiz & Companions, martyrs*

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Jim McShane

**Saturday, September 29**

*SS. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels*

2:30 p.m. Wedding -

Nicole Dobson & Marc Boldiszar

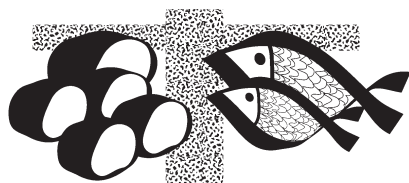
4:00 p.m. - Mass - For All People

**Sunday, September 30**

*Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:30 a.m. - For All People

11:15 a.m. - For All People



## Scriptures for the 25<sup>th</sup> Week of Ordinary Time

**Monday, September 24**

- Prv 3: 27-34
- Ps 15: 2-5
- Lk 8: 26-18

**Tuesday, September 25**

- Prv 21: 1-6, 10-13
- Ps 119: 1, 27, 30, 34-35, 44
- Lk 8: 19-21

**Wednesday, September 26**

- Prv 30: 5-9
- Ps 119: 29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163
- Lk 9: 1-6

**Thursday, September 27**

- Eccl 1: 2-11
- Ps 90: 3=6, 12-14, 17
- Lk 9: 7-9

**Friday, September 28**

- Eccl 3: 1-11
- Ps 144: 1b, 2abc, 3-4
- Lk 9: 18-22

**Saturday, September 29**

- Dn 7: 9-10 12-14 or Rv 12: 7-12a
- Ps 138: 1-5
- Jn 1: 47-51

**Sunday, September 30**

- Nm 11: 25-29
- Jas 5: 1-6
- Mk 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48

## Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 29<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>

**4:00 p.m. – Saturday – Celebrant:** Fr. Bede **Lector:** Bern Degnan  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Maria Cox & Adam Borkowski, Matthew Strong  
**Altar Servers:** Sean Hall, Jack Hern

**8:30 a.m. – Sunday – Celebrant:** Fr. Bede **Lector:** Colleen Jogan  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Colleen Gatzke, Joan Jackson, Maggie Jackson,  
Bob Jogan, Steve Linne, Chris Walsh  
**Altar Servers:** Dailey Jogan, Nicholas Kurta

**11:15 a.m. – Celebrant:** Fr. Pelc **Lector:** Roger Playwin  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Anne Billiu, Lupe Davila, Joseph Hugh,  
Sue Playwin, Darryl Swiatkowski, Patty Yaden  
**Altar Servers:** April Caballero, Liam O'Byrne

## Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

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

**On Sunday, September 9, 2018**

in envelopes we received ..... \$5,778.00

in the loose collection ..... \$728.00

in electronic donations ..... \$1,390.00

for a total of..... **\$7,896.00**

**Under** budget for the week..... **\$2, 205.00**

Number of envelopes mailed ..... 900

Number of envelopes used..... 125

Missionary collection.....\$3,164.00

*"If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the  
last of all and the servant of all." MARK 9:35*

Jesus teaches us that we are called to serve one another. Sacrifice is not a word that many people like to hear. We think it means that we must give up something that we want. However, the literal meaning of sacrifice is "to make holy," from the words "sacer" = sacred and "facere" = to make. In other words, we make our lives holy by sharing our gifts in the service of God.

## 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 Albina Checki and Gladys Bogos.

## Our Dead

On Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, a funeral service will be held for long-time St. Martin's parishoner and Jefferson-Chalmers resident, Leota (Lee) Keenan who passed away September 16, 2018 in St. Clair Shores.

Lee was born on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1920 in Oakland County, Michigan. She was the wife of the late Bill Keenan. The mother of Paul Keenan, the late Susan Keenan, Margaret Segal, Libby Keenan, Steve Keenan, Mary Keenan, and Katy Forcillo.

The gathering, which will be held at Verheyden funeral home, is scheduled from 3 p.m. - 8 p.m. Please remember Lee in your prayers.

## Mass for Commerce

The Catholic business and professional community are invited to the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Mass for Commerce on Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, at 8 a.m. in the Chapel of Sacred Heart Seminary, 2701 Chicago Blvd., Detroit.

The Eucharist reminds us that we are not just business and professional people who happen to be Catholic, but people who recognize they are stewards of God's gifts and their need for the Holy Spirit to be with them, guiding them every day.

A breakfast will follow Mass. Fr. Tim Hipskind, S.J., author of What's Your Decision? How to Make Choices with Confidence and Clarity, will sign free copies of his book and answer questions at the breakfast. Call (313) 596-7430 or visit [massforcommerce.org](http://massforcommerce.org)

# A NEW CITY FULL OF NEW IDOLS

In the Acts of the Apostles, we see St. Paul roaming pre-Gospel Athens; that is, we see St. Paul in a city full of idols. St. Paul did not wait for believers to come to him. Driven by the conviction that Jesus Christ was the only one in whom all of humanity could be saved, St. Paul moved beyond the boundaries of his religious community and deliberately placed himself in dialogue with those who lived in a city full of idols.

We live in a new city full of idols. A materialist approach to life has, in many (if not most) public sectors, eliminated the possibility to think about or discuss non-material reality. Pew research has indicated that many of those who self-identify as “nones” say that a “lack of belief” led them to move away from religion. This includes many respondents who mention ‘science’ as the reason they do not believe in religious teachings.

Anecdotal experience of the college classroom indicates that youth arrive at college more unable than unwilling to discuss non-material reality such as the soul and God. However, youth love to speak and express themselves. Once youth are helped to see that words are essentially non-material realities that are linked to other non-material realities called thoughts, the doors to speaking about the soul and God begin to open. It is simply a matter of discerning the door in the culture that can serve as the portal to faith (or pre-faith, in this case).

St. Paul’s commitment to moving beyond the borders of his religious community in order to “seek and save the lost” moved him to deliver his discourse at the Areopagus. It seems evident that those who identify as “Nones” are probably not going to be coming to any form of parish catechesis or faith formation. Are we willing to move beyond the borders of our religious community to meet the “Nones” on their own ground? Are we prayerfully discerning those within our faith community who, like Silas and Timothy, have been given the gift to evangelize and are we willing to support them in their efforts which will more than likely be un-conventional?

As devoted Catholics / Christians, we are often disturbed that “the young” and / or “the world” do not “understand Christian teaching”. We spend much time arguing with one another and “the world” over our definitions (both dogmatic and moral). The assumption we make in these arguments is that if “they” understood our definitions and teachings, “they” would agree with us regarding what is right and wrong, live moral lives and fulfill God’s will. In reality, however, not only is “the world” not paying attention to the Church’s definitions, but the world actually seems to be deriding us as we wring our hands over the non-acceptance of our definitions. The “Grey’s Anatomy” generation is not interested in our definitions; definitions are not their point of departure; LIFE and life’s experiences are this generation’s point of departure.

We in the Catholic Church have probably become too comfortable with taking theological definitions as the starting point for our understanding of faith. This has been the case for over a thousand years, and it is consummately present in the work of the great scholastic theologians St. Bonaventure and

St. Thomas Aquinas. Those of us who belong to “The Greatest Generation” or the “Baby-Boomer” generation have been formed to first learn definitions and then to apply them to life. If, however, we wish to reach “Generation X”, “Generation Y” or the “Millennials”, we need the courage to rethink our situation and embrace this paradigmatic shift. Like God in the Incarnation and like St. Paul, we must be willing to communicate ourselves according to the mode of those who receive our message and not according to the modes with which we are comfortable.

To help us embrace this paradigmatic shift away, I would like to focus for a moment on two texts from John’s Gospel: John 10:10 “*I came so that they might have life (zoe) and have it more abundantly.*” John 14:6 “*Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life (zoe). No one comes to the Father except through me.’*”

If Jesus, “the way, the truth and the life”, came that we might “have life” (i.e. zoe-life / divine life), then the Gospel and the transformation of life the Gospel makes possible are exactly what this generation seeks, even though they may not recognize it. “What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you” (Acts 17:23). Have we failed to be examples of the transformation / divinization that “zoe” life makes possible and so have failed to love the “Grey’s Anatomy” generation? And in failing to love this generation, have we failed to introduce them to the transformational life and love of the Lord Jesus?

If we are to pastorally care for “Nones”, one major insight to keep in mind is the paradigmatic shift in the culture away from definitions and toward experience. Relational experience must become our point of departure as we pastorally engage “nones” – even in the classroom. We must learn to teach the Creed in the key of relationship and we must earn a hearing for our teaching by conveying a real experience of love for those to whom we speak.

We do well to avoid approaching “Nones” with anything that can be perceived as an ulterior motive. We must engage the humanity of each relationship on its own terms and, through the genuineness of our friendship, introduce others to a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch, but also in communion and intimacy, with Jesus Christ – the goal of Catechesis.

Jesus Christ’s “didactic” example is a recommendation for a best practice. In the Gospels we see Jesus asking far more questions than he is asked; and of all the questions he is asked (near 200), he might have answered 10 of them. The asking of questions that invite a person into dialogue with what is being taught creates space in which transformation, and not merely the exchange of information, can happen. Maybe we need to become comfortable with asking “Catholic Questions”?

*Excerpt from Finding New Portals for Faith: Toward Pastoral Care of “Nones” for the NCCB by Sister Marie Kolbe Zamora. For the full article go to [bit.ly/2DbILJ7](http://bit.ly/2DbILJ7).*