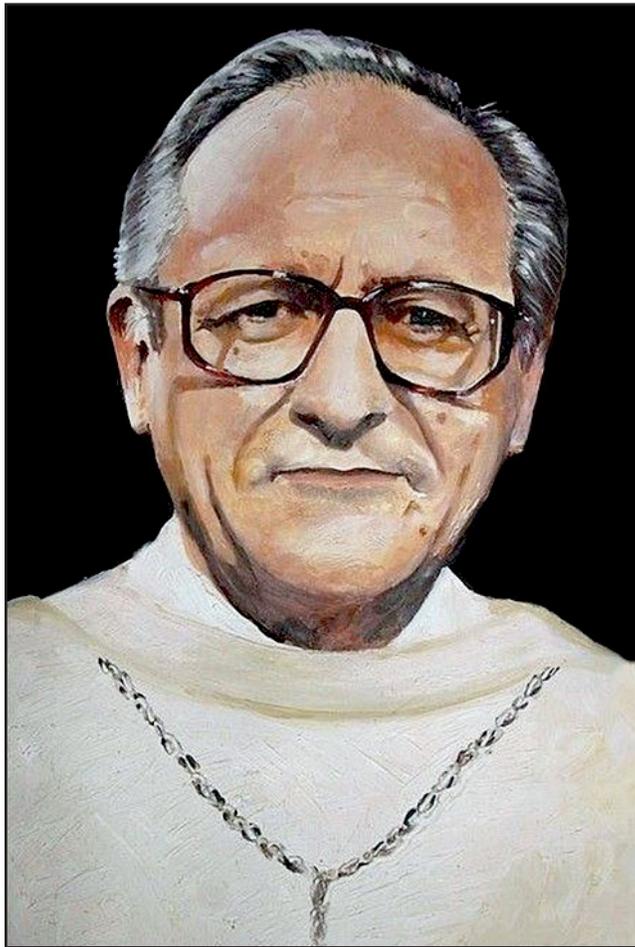


Blessed Pierre Claverie and the Martyrs of Algeria

The beatification of 19 martyrs of Algeria, including Dominican Bishop Pierre Claverie and seven Trappist monks of Tibhirine, was celebrated this past Saturday, Dec. 8th in Oran, Algeria. Representing Pope Francis was Cardinal Angelo Becciu, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes who presided over the Mass and beatification rite for the six women and 13 men who gave their lives "for the least, the sick and the men, women and young people of Algeria." These martyrs "are given to us as intercessors and models of Christian life, friendship and fraternity, encounter and dialogue," the Cardinal wrote. "May their example help us in our life today. From Algeria, their beatification will be an impetus and a call for the Church and for the world to build together a world of peace and fraternity,"

The 19 martyrs were killed between 1993 and 1996 while Algeria was locked in a 10-year-long armed conflict between government forces and extremist Islamic rebel groups; the conflict left tens of thousands of people dead. In the 1990s, Algeria was rocked by civil war. In 1992, the military nullified an election that would have put hard-line Islamic leaders in power. The North African country soon became home to several Islamic insurgencies wanting to overthrow the government and establish a strictly Islamic government. Over 150,000 people died from the warfare between government forces and Islamic insurgents. Most of the Catholic faithful in Algeria were French-born, often moving there for work. As tensions rose in the early 1990s, Christians and especially Catholic priests were advised to leave the country for fear of anti-Christian violence.



The fighting slowed down in the late 1990s, as popular support for the insurgencies was on the decline. The decline was also facilitated by negotiations between the government and the insurgents after numerous massacres of civilians. The violence did not have a definitive end, however, since the rebels were disorganized to the point of infighting, with some not accepting the ceasefire.

Blessed Bishop Pierre Claverie, O.P. was born in 1938 into a family of *pieds-noirs*, meaning French settlers in Algeria. His family had been in the country for four generations, so he felt himself fully Algerian. The greatest discovery of his life came in his 20s, when he realized that he had been living in what he called a "colonial bubble" – the majority Arabs had been essentially invisible to him, serving only as a backdrop, as local color. He was dismayed that his Christian upbringing had never challenged him to step out of that

bubble, to see the Arab too as his "neighbor." For the rest of his life, Claverie dedicated himself to overcoming what he called "the abyss that separates us."

As a young man studying for the priesthood in a Dominican Seminary in France, Claverie prepared for what he would later call his "Algerian vocation." He mastered Arabic, and while he was always a pastor rather than an academic, he also acquired a deep understanding of Islamic spirituality and history. When he returned to Algeria in 1967, the Catholic community was in many ways a shell of its former self. Most of the *pieds-noirs* had gone into exile in France, leaving the Catholic

Continued on page 2

Martyrs of Algeria

Continued from page 1

population dramatically reduced. In that context, Claverie and other Catholic leaders were forced to articulate a new logic for the Church's presence in an Islamic society. The option he embraced might best be described as an "apostolate of friendship."

"One of my principal missions in Algeria," he said, "is to establish, develop, and enrich a relationship, always, everywhere, and with everyone." Claverie's faith was that basic human solidarity would ultimately prove more powerful than theological divisions or historical resentments. "I know enough Muslim friends who are also my brothers to think that Islam knows how to be tolerant, fraternal," Claverie said. "Dialogue is a work to which we must return without pause: it alone lets us disarm the fanaticism, both our own and that of the other."

Claverie staked his life on two convictions: first, that a democratic, tolerant Islamic society is possible; second, that it's better to build up alternatives than to tear down what he opposed. He worked tirelessly to foster a genuine civil society in Algeria, creating libraries for students and researchers, rehabilitation centers for the handicapped, and centers for educating women. He would not permit "our love to be extinguished despite the fury in our hearts, desiring peace and building it up in tiny steps, refusing to join the chorus of howls, and remaining free while yet in chains." Claverie understood the peril such a choice implied.

"Reconciliation is not a simple affair," he wrote in 1995. "It comes at a high price. It can also involve, as it did for Jesus, being torn apart between irreconcilable opposites. An Islamist and a kafir (infidel) cannot be reconciled. So, then, what's the choice? Well, Jesus does not choose. He says, in effect, 'I love you all,' and he dies."

Those words proved chillingly prophetic. Claverie was killed on Aug. 1, 1996, just two months after the brutal beheading of seven Trappist monks in Tib-

hirine, Algeria. He died alongside his Muslim friend and driver, Mohamed Bouchikhi, when a bomb exploded in the bishop's residence. As the two men lay dying, their blood mingled on the floor, offering a metaphor for their common humanity running deeper than differences of ethnicity, ideology and creed.

In the end, Claverie offers an antidote to facile theories about Islam, of whatever sort, crafted at a distance. He was an artisan of the patient, and often painful, work of building relationships, overcoming stereotypes, and confronting painful truths with both honesty and hope

Bishop Pierre Claverie of Algeria: Patron for the Dialogue of Cultures, by John L. Allen, Jr. was excerpted from the National Catholic Reporter, October 26, 2007.

Pregnancy Aid Giving Tree

For 24 Advent seasons now, we have erected a **Pregnancy Aid Giving Tree** in our church building as a demonstrative way of supporting our pro-life convictions. This Giving Tree outreach program benefits the local Pregnancy Aid Society at 17325 Mack, where women with unplanned pregnancies can find positive alternatives to abortion. Take a "snowflake" from the tree as a pledge – a reminder – and a gift tag – to bring back attached to a present for a newborn at one of our Christmas masses.

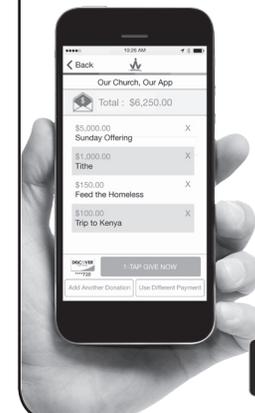
The Pregnancy Aid Society has a wish list which includes: baby clothing (0-12 mos.), sleepers, blankets, bibs, undershirts (one-piece snap-style), bath accessories, baby toiletries, diapers (size 1 and 2), strollers, breast-feeding accessories and informative books like: "You and Your Baby" or support items such as "Baby Einstein" DVDs, books and toys. "Pack 'n Plays," along with Pack 'n Play-sized crib sheets, are also welcomed, as are all gently used baby furniture and car carriers. In short – things that are practical, educational and essential.

The major assimilation of these items takes place at our Christmas Eve Children's liturgy, but early gifts can be brought in on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22nd and 23rd, or to the other Christmas masses. Items brought in at Christmastime are part of an inventory from which Pregnancy Aid draws all year long. There are few better ways to give a birthday present today to Jesus than through this Pregnancy Aid project.

Givelify

Tap. Give. Done.

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



givelify.com/app

GET IT ON
Google play

Download on the
App Store

All Things Considered

In 1991, **Ned McGrath**, a parishioner since the late 1980s, was a young, second-string reporter at a local TV station. But on a May afternoon of that year, he sat in my office prepping for a job interview with the Archdiocese of Detroit. **Cardinal Adam Maida** was looking for a new director of communications, and encouraged by another Ambrosian, **Neal Shine**, Ned had decided to give the job a shot. While it seemed far afield from the broadcasting career he had been trained for, there was something about working for the good of the Church that resonated in his heart. Ned aced the interview and since that time, has been the “spokesperson” of the Archdiocese – handling the media for any number of events in good times and bad.

Ned’s Catholic roots run deep. A native of Buffalo, he was educated by the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart at St. Rose of Lima Grade School, and by the Jesuits at Canisius High School. His broadcast-journalism degree was earned at Ohio University. His first broadcasting jobs were in Chicago, where he met his wife, Katie. They moved to Louisville for a television news job, where they started a family. Six years later, they came to Detroit when Ned landed a reporting job at WDIV. Here, they raised two children, Maggie and Peter. Katie went on to teach art at St. Clare and St. Paul’s Elementary Schools.

Ned’s training as a journalist and his rapport with media professionals earned him lasting respectability among

his former colleagues. As a member of the Archdiocesan Curia, he helped the local Church present a credible public face. He worked on a number of celebratory occasions, like the installation of new popes and bishops and Jubilee 2000. He garnered award after award in recognition of his work in Catholic media. He also worked any number of crisis situations. On many occasions, when a parish was in the midst of some trauma, Ned would be there helping things heal on a person-to-person basis.



For his years of selfless service, **Pope Francis** granted Ned the Benemerenti Medal. The Benemerenti was first conceived by **Pope Pius VI (1775–1799)** as a military honor. In 1925, the award became a mark of recognition to persons in service of the Church, both civil and military, lay and clergy alike.

Ned’s papal honor was presented last week at a Vesper service at Detroit’s Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. I was there along with 60 others, including retired Cardinal Maida. **Archbishop Allen Vigneron**, who read the papal decree, offered his own appreciation and compliments to Ned.

Also receiving papal honors that evening – the Order of St. Gregory – were **Michael Monahan**, former bank executive and long-time member of the Archdiocesan Finance Council; and **Michael Talbot**, recently retired Chief Judge of the Michigan Appeals Court, who has served since 2002 as chairman of Detroit’s Review Board – and still does – for abuse cases.

This all happened to happen on the 101st anniversary of the birth of **Mary Margaret Atkinson**, Ned’s mother, who is smiling in heaven that

her son’s good work had merited the attention of the Pope himself.

✠✠✠

The following quote is from **Business Inc.**, and has to do with getting repeat customers, but I read it while looking for ideas on how to retain some of the large number of visitors and people whom we will encounter during the holidays. Substitute the word “Christian” or “parishioner” whenever you see “customer”. Where it says “business” substitute the words “Church” or “parish” and I think you will get the point.

“While *businesses* often direct their attention on attracting new clients, strengthening their connection with existing *customers* is equally, or perhaps even more important.

Return *customers* are the lifeblood of any *business*, and thanks to social media, they have the power to be an online ambassador for your organization. A loyal *customer* is not only paying for your products and services but is telling others about you, too.

Taking repeat *customers* for granted is a mistake. *Customers* will come and go, often disappearing without ever letting you know why they’re not returning. Be sure to protect the investment you made in earning their coming to you the first time by taking the best possible care of them once they are in the fold.”

“Give your *customers* a reason to come again. Continue to hone and improve your offerings. You can have the best product in the world, but if the person your *customer* interacts with is not engaging or even worse, downright unpleasant to deal with, you will drive people away. When someone does something above and beyond our expectations, they will leave feeling delighted and excited, and will likely tell others.”

Thank you for being part of the family of St. Ambrose Parish. Give thanks and invite someone to join us this Christmas - the day we celebrate God becoming part of our family, too.



Name

Home Phone

Work Phone

Email Address

- 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.

The Buzz

We're already a full week into Advent and a new liturgical year. So it's OK to ask: what do you want for Christmas? What are you hoping for? Are the answers to these two questions different from each other? By any chance is one or both of your answers – 'I want (hope for) *everything . . . forever*'?! Does that sound too greedy, or is it at the heart of the 'reason for the season'?

The basic premise of the truest and deepest hope is that anything as a goal short of everything (= God and eternal life with Christ) is just a drive down a dead-end street. While progress, and science, and our own powers and abilities are important – they are not the source nor goal of genuine hope. They are modes by which we can express love. God is love. By communion in God's love we are redeemed and saved. This truth gives meaning to everything else; because of this we can have true hope – for love and life that never ends (= everything!).

So, what do you want (hope for) for Christmas? Don't stop short of wanting EVERYTHING, FOREVER. And don't stop short of giving your loved ones the same. We'll all be richer for such a lasting gift. Remember, just like Jesus . . . and in communion with Him, you are the most needed and important present you give to others at Christmas . . . or any other time of the year.



Speaking of hope, what do you think people in the caravan south of the border most hope for? Ordinarily today, December 9th on the Church calendar, would be celebrated as the feast day of St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin. You know his story of hope and perseverance which was empowered by the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe (whose feast we will celebrate this Wednesday, the 12th). Pope St. John Paul II honored Mary under this title as Mother of the Americas. He intended to promote the unity in faith of all peoples in the Western Hemisphere – South, Central and North America – who have the same mother given to us by Christ. Poverty, politics, jobs, immigration issues, etc. have been ganging up more and more to divide us. Let's spend some time today through Wednesday at least, in prayer with Mary for all her children – our brothers and sisters – that the hope of Christ's reign of love may overcome all fears, divisions and racial/ethnic hatreds. And if some other voices appear to point us in an opposite direction, watch out! You never know what miraculous presents caravan members might be bringing us in 2018 hidden under their tilmas.



Reflections on hopes and presents this time of year could form the basis of a great examination of conscience for each of us in preparation for Christmas. True hope is demonstrated in love. Sin is whatever we choose to do – or fail to do – that frustrates or damages love. Read again Paul's prayer in the last sentence of today's second Scripture passage from his Letter to the Philippians.

Advent is a time meant to help us prepare to renew the incarnation of the Lord of Love in our lives. That's the foundation for our hope, and the hope we give others. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a great way to celebrate this hope. Count on wrapping the renewed gift of yourself to the Lord in this Sacrament here on the Saturday before Christmas, December 22nd, at 2:00 p.m.

Chuck Dropiewski

GIVE A CHEER!

Please join in the annual Tap Into Life Young Adult Christmas Mixer! There will be great food, games and tons of smiles and laughter! It will be held next Sunday December 16th, 6 p.m. at The Solanus Casey Center 1780 Mt. Elliott St. Detroit, MI. Spread the word and please bring a friend! RSVP by emailing TapIntoLife@thecapuchins.org

Like them on Facebook: facebook.com/TapIntoLifeYo. Listen to the podcast: Tap Into Life Podcast: media.zencast.fm/tap-into-life. Follow them on Instagram: TapIntoLife, or on Snapchat: TapIntoLifeYo.

Journey of Hope

ALONE With JESUS: Philip found Nathanael and told him, we have found the one about whom Moses wrote in the law, and also the prophets, Jesus, son of Joseph, from Nazareth. But Nathanael said to him, Can anything good come from Nazareth? Philip said to him, Come and see (John 2: 45-56).

Alone with Jesus and self is the embrace of Christ's intimate relationship on our Journey of Hope. This embrace of Christ gives us power. You may wonder and ponder what does this truly mean? Why are we here, and who is Jesus to you and me? These are fundamental questions for Christians, especially those who want to encounter Jesus' loving affection. Thomas Rausch, a theologian, discloses that the first Christian community answered who Jesus is by creating titles for him. They expressed their faith within the context of the Old and New Testaments, and they experienced their relationship with Jesus as "prophet, teacher, Messiah, Son of David, Son of Man, LORD, Son of God, WORD of God" (Rausch 1). Historically, the earliest image of Jesus by Christians is found in the art of the catacombs in Rome. It portrayed Jesus as the Good Shepherd. The Church Fathers used the icon of the pierced side of Christ as the birthplace of the Church's sacraments.

Who is Jesus? Come and see! I invite you to enter deeply into this intimate relationship with Jesus, to be alone with him. I want you to relate one good image of how Jesus has used you to bless someone, or has used someone to bless you. I want you to express how this/these encounters have drawn you close to Jesus. It is important to comprehend that Jesus is a friend seeking union with you. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life" (John 3:16).

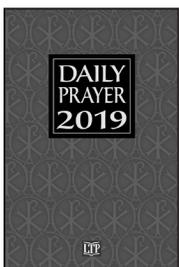
The invitation of Jesus two thousand years ago remains unchanged. Today Christ continues to invite you and me to the heavenly blessing, which means to be alone with Him. When the two disciples of John the Baptist left him and followed Jesus, "Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day (John 1:37-39). The disciples devoted their time contemplatively with Jesus and he taught them the Lord's Prayer.

At the confirmation class here at St. Ambrose Parish, I was asked to share on the topic: "Who is Jesus?" Then I asked the instructor to print the pictures of several images of Jesus for the class. I asked the candidates to go and pick their choice, and quietly gaze and reflect on the pictures for a few minutes. Later I invited them to share their experience. Many raised their hands and powerfully shared who Jesus is to them, individually. It was awesome! One among the students said, "This will be my morning reflection every day; this is how I will continue to appreciate who Jesus is to me daily." That is a distinctive answer and invitation right there! To be alone with Jesus is to find a silent place to rest: places like retreats, like Adoration before the Eucharist, or meditating through the Stations of the Cross, as well as mental meditation and contemplative journaling. It is essential to balance our active lives with time to pray and be alone with Jesus on our Journey of Hope.

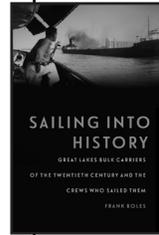
Dn. Anthony Kote-Witah, OFM Cap.

Pray Every Day

Could you be searching for a fresh new way to pray every day of the year? Daily Prayer 2019 is your guide to prayer that includes scripture, psalmody, a brief reflection, general intercessions, and a closing prayer. It is ideal for personal and family reflection upon the word of God. This also makes an excellent gift for seniors, newlyweds, or for a student away at college. These prayerbooks are now discounted to \$8 each, which is a modest investment in someone's spiritual formation. To pick up a copy of this year's Daily Prayer 2019, stop in the back of church or call the rectory office at 822-2814.



Marcellina's Book Club



The Great Lakes create a vast transportation network that supports a massive shipping industry. In Sailing into History: Great Lakes Bulk Carriers of the Twentieth Century and the Crews Who Sailed Them, Frank Boles

relates seamanship, cargo, competition, cooperation, technology, engineering, business, unions, government decisions, and international agreements in a story of unrivaled interest.

We are in the process of connecting with the author to see when he can pay our book club a visit. That date will be announced here. In the meantime, pick up a copy of the book and get a headstart 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: 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, December 10

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Tuesday, December 11

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Mary Oberly

Wednesday, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Thursday, December 13

St. Lucy, virgin & martyr

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Dr. Carol West

Friday, December 14

St. John of the Cross, priest & doctor

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Nicholas Piccione

Saturday, December 15

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

Sunday, December 16

The Third Sunday in Advent

8:30 a.m. - For All People

11:15 a.m. - For All People



Mass Times When Traveling

Your membership in the Catholic Church gives you privileges to worship with any Catholic Community world wide. While on your vacation or traveling, websites like masstimes.org and thecatholicdirectory.com make it easy to find a mass.

Scriptures for the Second Week of Advent

Monday, December 10

- Is 35: 1-10
- Ps 85: 9ab-14
- Lk 5: 17-26

Tuesday, December 11

- Is 40: 1-11
- Ps 96: 1-3, 10a-c, 11-13
- Mt 18: 12-14

Wednesday, December 12

- Zec 2: 14-17
or Rv 11: 19a; 12: 1-6ab, 10ab
- (Ps) Jdt 13: 18b-19
- Lk 1: 26-38 or Lk 1: 39-47

Thursday, December 13

- Is 41: 13-20
- Ps 1, 9-13ab
- Mt 11: 11-15

Friday, December 14

- Is 48: 17-19
- Ps 1: 1-4, 6
- Mt 11:16-19

Saturday, December 15

- Sir 48: 1-4, 9-11
- Ps 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19
- Mt 17: 9a-10-13

Sunday, December 16

- Zep 3: 14-18a
- Phil 4: 4-7
- Lk 3: 10-18

The Third Sunday in Advent December 15th and December 16th

4:00 p.m. – Saturday – Celebrant: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Cathy McPherson
Eucharistic Ministers: Beverly Bennert, Della Cimini, Elizabeth Puleo-Tague
Altar Servers: Julianna & Kiernan Tague

8:30 a.m. – Sunday – Celebrant: Fr. Pelc **Lector:** Karlos Haynes
Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Gatzke, Christopher Harrison, Joan Jackson, Maggie Jackson, Colleen Jogan, Steve Linne, Joellyn Valgoi
Altar Servers: Nicholas Kurta, Nathan Lipka

11:15 a.m. - Celebrant: Bp. Gumbleton **Lector:** Kurt Vatalaro
Eucharistic Ministers: Lupe Davila, Michele Hodges, Joseph Hugh, Janis Ramsey, Cristina Swiatkowski, Patty Yaden
Altar Servers: Shea Vatalaro, Austin Sisco

Your Envelope Speaks . . . the Inside Story

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

On Sunday, December 2, 2018

in envelopes we received \$9,220.00

in the loose collection \$725.00

in electronic donations \$1,390.00

for a total of..... **\$11,335.00**

Over budget for the week..... **\$1,235.00**

Number of envelopes mailed 900

Number of envelopes used..... 168

“And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value...” PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10

Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying we remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God and to those who are in need.

Our Sick

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

Advent Communal Penance Service

Saturday,
December 22, 2018 ^{AT}
2:00 P.M.

Begin the Celebration
of Christmas
in the right frame of mind.

Advent Evening

The Passionist Fathers at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center invite you to join them on Thursday December 13th, from 6:30 - 8:30 for a simple evening of quiet prayer and peaceful activity that will help you feel the authentic anticipation of Christmas. Spend two hours as a gift to yourself preparing for Christ without shopping, greeting cards or lists of things to do. \$20 per person or \$35 for two guests (children 5-14 free). Register at 313-286-2800 or www.stpaulretreat.org.

St. Paul Retreat Center is located on the far west side of Detroit at 23333 Schoolcraft Rd. (I-96), east of Telegraph.



Join us on Facebook
facebook.com/stambroseparish

Shop St. Ambrose

Are you looking for a special gift for that hard-to-buy-for loved one? St. Ambrose offers some limited items for your Christmas giving. These are exclusive to our parish and quantities are limited.

Buy-A-Brick – Memorialize a loved one, or “carve in stone” an event with a personalized brick paver that will be installed in our memorial walkway. Pavers run between \$500 and \$1,000 depending on size. Here’s a gift that becomes a tangible part of Ambrosian history, viewed by generations to come.

Ghirelli Rosaries – Six different custom-designed rosaries made by hand in Italy expressly for St. Ambrose Parish. The bead collection ranges from hard wood, bohemian glass and semi-precious stones. The crucifix is taken from the ARK Plaza sculpture. The center piece depicts the First and Second Coming of Christ from our sanctuary and the “pater” beads are taken from a detail in our stained glass windows. Not just a beautiful work of craftsmanship, but a useful aid in prayer – a real legacy piece! Prices run between \$48 and \$107 dollars. They come boxed and presented in a velvet gift bag.

“Feeding the Multitude” – a collection of more than 250 recipes provided by the cooks of St. Ambrose Parish. This spiral bound book contains a special section with meal prayers for the seasons of the Church year as well as for special family celebrations.

Commemorative Bee Tile – Designed and produced exclusively for St. Ambrose Parish by David Ellison, a Detroit-area tile maker who was instrumental in establishing the tile-making program at historic Pewabic Pottery. The size of the tile, unframed, is 6” x 6” and costs \$85.00, gift-boxed.

Christmas Cherub – A reproduction of a DePrato Cherub that donned the St. Ambrose Creche over 75 years ago. Each Cherub is a hand-painted resin casting by Ellison Studios, numbered and signed. Every one is a unique work of art at \$75 each. (Limited Supplies remaining)

St. Ambrose Honey – To protect the struggling hives, no honey will be harvested in 2018.

There are three easy ways to “shop” St. Ambrose:

1. Stop by the parish office, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cash, check or credit cards are accepted.
2. Call the parish office at (313) 822-2814 to place your order – it can be made available at Mass for your pick up. Credit cards may be taken over the phone. Or pay by cash or check after mass when picking up, or mail to the parish office.
3. Email your order to stambrose@comcast.net and let us know if you want to pick up at the rectory or after Mass. Please do not send credit card numbers by email. Call (313) 822-2814 for assistance.

Oplatek

Before sitting down to Christmas Eve dinner, many families with roots in Poland and other Eastern European countries will take part in the oplatek tradition. The sharing of this unleavened bread with another person is a time to tell each other, ‘I love you, I care about you.’ These wafers are sold through our parish, at our office or after mass in church. White wafers are for the human members of the family; pets get the tinted ones. If you cannot find Oplatek in stores, we have some here for you.

Vincentian Reflection

In today’s Gospel, John the Baptist urges us to “Prepare the way of the Lord,” and this is what Advent is all about. We are called to help prepare the way of the Lord by making the real meaning of Christmas come alive in our own hearts, in our families, and to reach out to those in need. Is there a family you know who needs assistance? Please call the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that together we can help the suffering and poor to celebrate Christmas.

Christian Financial

St. Ambrose Parish, through Christian Financial Credit Union, is equipped to make electronic transfers from your checking account or credit card on our website. 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 information on electronic giving.



St. Ambrose Liturgical Choir

... under the direction of Norah Duncan, IV ... holds rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. New members are always welcome. Interested volunteers who would like to sing for the Christmas holidays but cannot commit to the entire year are especially welcomed at this time.

For more information, contact Dr. Duncan through the parish office at stambrose@comcast.net or climb up to the loft before or after Sunday’s masses.