

No Explanation Necessary

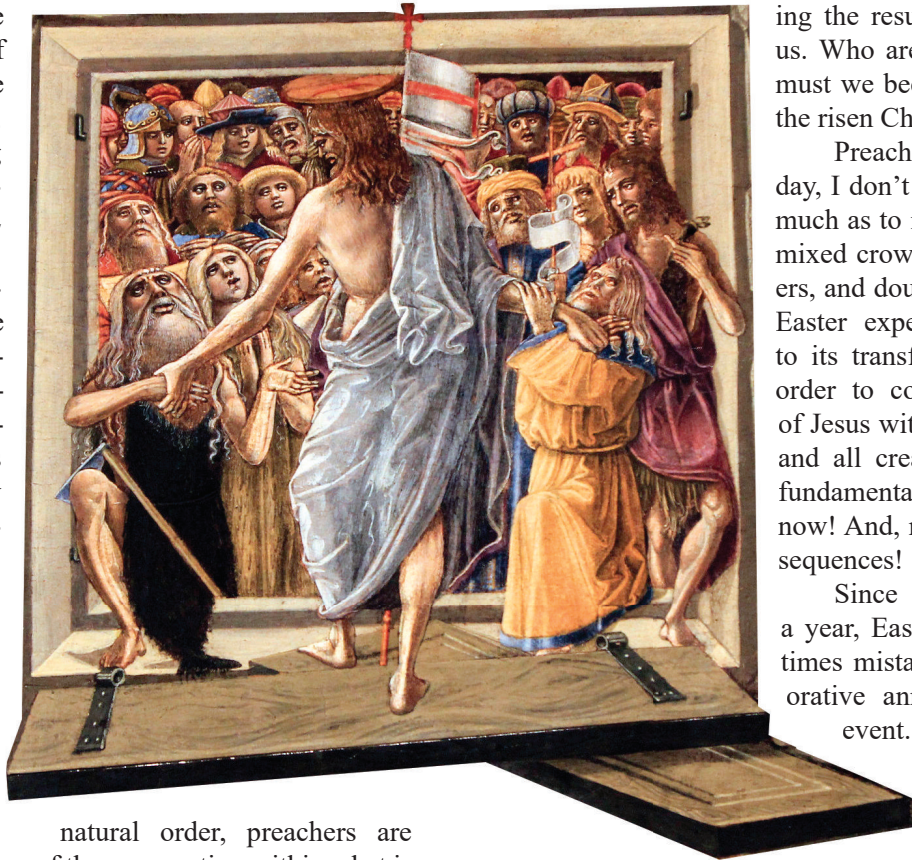
At the entrance to Jerusalem's Church of All Nations, next to the Garden of Gethsemane, there is a sign warning every visitor: NO EXPLANATIONS INSIDE THE CHURCH.

This was intended to discourage talkative tour guides from disturbing the church's prayerful ambience with shouted lectures, but it has always struck me as very good advice for preachers on Easter Sunday.

Confronted by a room full of people who spend most of their time in secular social ways of thinking, where the dead stay dead and God—if there is one—does not intervene in the natural order, preachers are tempted to mount a defense of the resurrection within what is plausible to the modern mind. In doing so, they tame a dangerous mystery into a manageable—and rather harmless—assumption. They also waste a valuable opportunity to bring the assembly into confrontation with the transformative presence of the living Christ.

There is nothing wrong with addressing people's doubts, or wondering what facts might lie behind what Rowan Williams calls the "painfully untidy stories" of the Easter narratives. But that is work for another day. Easter Sunday is for proclamation, not explanation. It is a time to meet the One who changes everything.

The central question of Easter is not "What happened to Jesus way back then?" but rather "Where is Jesus now—for us?" Or even more strikingly, as theologian Gareth Jones asks, "When is Jesus? When is Jesus for us?" Easter becomes not a matter of our questioning the resurrection but of allow-



ing the resurrection to question us. Who are we now, and what must we become, in the light of the risen Christ?

Preaching on Easter Sunday, I don't want to convince so much as to invite—to invite the mixed crowd of believers, seekers, and doubters to embrace the Easter experience and consent to its transformative effects. In order to connect the riseness of Jesus with the riseness of us and all creation, there are two fundamental themes: Easter is now! And, resurrection has consequences!

Since it only occurs once a year, Easter Sunday is sometimes mistaken for a commemorative anniversary of a past event. In fact, the earliest churches treated the paschal mystery of Christ's death and resurrection

as the timeless (or time-full) subject of every eucharistic liturgy. The establishment of an annual observance of Easter Day was a later development.

The resurrection, although breaking into history on a specific temporal occasion, is not the property of the past. As God's future showing itself in our present, it belongs to all times and seasons. Jesus is alive, still showing up as a transfiguring presence in a world fraught with absences. Jesus is not over, and his story is not over. It will only be completed in the divinization of the cosmos, when God is in all and all are in God.

Resurrection has consequences. The resurrection is more than an idea we talk about or believe propositionally. It's something we become, something we "prove" in the living of our stories. Rowan Williams describes it this way:

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“... the believer’s life is a testimony to the risen-ness of Jesus: he or she demonstrates that Jesus is not dead by living a life in which Jesus is the never-failing source of affirmation, challenge, enrichment and enlargement—a pattern, a dance, intelligible as a pattern only when its pivot and heart become manifest. The believer shows Jesus as the center of his or her life.”

In Orthodox iconography of the resurrection, Jesus is never by himself. He is always depicted taking the dead by the hand and pulling them out of their own tombs. Christ’s hand snatching us from death is a vivid image, and George Herbert, a 17th-century poet-priest, employs it artfully in “Easter”:

*Sing his praise; Without delays,
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise
With him mayst rise . . .*

But the things that are killing us exert a powerful gravity. We sag under the weight of our despair, we resist the hand that pulls us upward. Nevertheless, Christ persists. “*Arise, sad heart,*” says Herbert in “The Dawning”:

*if thou dost not withstand,
Christ’s resurrection thine may be;
Do not by hanging down break from the hand
Which, as it riseth, raiseth thee.*

Christ came to save us from our least selves. That’s the gift—and the challenge—of the resurrection, and it applies to our common life as well as to our private selves. The first disciples, so scattered and shamed by the events of the Passion, made this perfectly clear when their broken and bewildered community was restored to life. And so it is for all of us who follow.

Resurrection is about the healing and restoration of wounded and severed relationships: relationships between God and humanity, between human persons and, ultimately, among all the elements of creation. An Orthodox theologian, Patriarch Athenagoras, puts the case in the widest possible terms: “The Resurrection is not the resuscitation of a body; it is the beginning of the transfiguration of the world.”

That’s what I strive to preach on Sunday. Of course, we don’t control what people take away from the Easter celebration. But we can hope that the faithful will be inspired and empowered, and that “outsiders” may be intrigued—and even fed—by spending time with a resurrection community alive with the Spirit.

The primary task of preachers and evangelists on Easter Sunday is not to recite or argue the evidence for the resurrection but to help their communities become that evidence. May the whole world one day see and know a church which has been shocked into bliss—and has never recovered!

Adapted from a 2017 article by Cheryl Magness, the managing editor of Reporter, the official web magazine of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

Easter Cinema

This holiday week is a good time to go back and watch some great movies. Of course, there are the classics such as *The Ten Commandments*, *The Robe*, *The Greatest Story Ever Told* and *The Passion of the Christ*. In addition to these overtly religious films, we asked film buff Fr. Robert Wotypka, OFM, cap. for a selection of other movies that may merit a first or even a second look through a spiritual lens.

For the entire family Fr. Robert recommends:

- *Whale Rider* (New Zealand-Germany, 2002) – It’s about faith; not Christianity, but faith nonetheless.
- *The Miracle Maker* (Ukraine-UK, 2000) – A project to save an animation studio, and an incredible cast doing the voices. I have never seen a film that better leans into the strangeness of the Gospels and turns that into a strength.

For fully formed people Fr. Robert recommends:

- *Romero* (1989) - These holy-roller movies are usually under-funded and over-acted, but this one is solid.
- *The Apostle* (1997) – a labor of love from Robert Duvall. You will be left mourning over all the films June Carter Cash didn’t make.
- *First Reformed* (2018) – Paul Schrader. To paraphrase Aquinas, for those who understand, no explanation is possible. For those who do not, no explanation is possible.
- *Household Saints* (1993) – Very hard to find, and all the more precious for it.
- *A Serious Man* (2009) – The Coen Brothers as you’ve never seen them. Because no one saw this one. Do not let your hearts be troubled.
- *Calvary* (2014) – Is there even one among you who does not wish to see every movie Brendan Gleason has ever made? No, not one.
- *Leap of Faith* (1992) – This one died at the box office and for no good reason because it’s superb. Then it flopped on Broadway. Do you still believe me?

God of the journey, God of the traveler

We pray for those who leave their homes in search of new beginnings and possibilities, may they know your presence with them.

We pray that those who seek to make a home in this country may find us welcoming and willing to help them find a path toward citizenship.

We pray that our legislators, as they craft new immigration legislation may find the wisdom and courage to enact new policies that do justice for our country and for those who would immigrate here.

We pray for those who fan the flames of fear and discrimination against the undocumented may be touched with your divine compassion. In Jesus' name. Amen.

The Archdiocese of Chicago

All Things Considered

Easter is not just one day, but rather a protracted 50 day season – ending on Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church.

But it's more than just an extended celebration of the resurrection of Jesus. In the ancient Church, the preceding 40 days of Lent was a time of instruction – of preparation for new converts who professed their faith and were initiated at the Easter Vigil. The 50 days after that continued the faith formation of these new Christians.

Here in the Archdiocese of Detroit, it's estimated that 780 men, women and children were baptized, made a profession of faith and/or were received into Catholic Communion this Easter.

Here at St. Ambrose five adults participated in that transformative experience. Their biographies and photos have been printed in an insert that you'll find in the bulletin racks. **Jamie Lynn Goodrich** was received into full Communion. **Aaron Robert Distelrath** was baptized at our Easter Vigil.

Ryan Michael Perry, who will be completing his Catholic initiation at Pentecost, is in Florida this weekend participating in the Baptism of his fiancée, **Mary Beth Zavicar**. Both will be married here at St. Ambrose this Summer.

Monique Elaine Konecny completed her initiation through Confirmation celebrated at the Cathedral last Fall.

The diversity of each of their personal faith journeys shows how the Holy Spirit moves in mysterious ways. While there is a formal process for people coming into the Church, here at St. Ambrose we creatively work with those who don't necessarily fit into the normal processes. If that describes you, or someone you know, we would like to hear from you.

Last call for those three missionary Lenten projects that had us reaching out to Messo America, Africa and South America.

Folders asking for a sacrifice of a quarter for each of Lent's 40 days should now be brought back and dropped into the collection basket or at the rectory. These contributions will go to the *LaSante* Medical Mission in Haiti supported by **Bishop Gumbleton**.

Joe Looney, an Attorney/Ambrosian who has spent decades working as a member of Maryknoll Missionaries' Lay Ministry Program, asked us for hearing aids that could be refurbished and used for children with hearing losses in Peru. An amazing number of these costly instruments have been donated.

Deacon Anthony Kote-Witah and his brother **Emmanuel** have been busy transporting children's educational and inspirational books to the shipper who will send these materials to their native Nigeria. Cull your bookshelves for some quality items so as to put them in the hands of youngsters who will consider even a used book a treasure.

Deacon Anthony will be ordained a priest this coming Saturday in ceremonies conducted at St. Clare of Montefalco Parish in Chicago. Three friars will be ordained transitional deacons at the same Mass: two Capuchins and one of the Order of Franciscan Minor, OFM. The ordaining bishop will be the **Most Rev. Paul Schmitz**, Bishop of the Diocese of Bluefields, Nicaragua.

Anthony will celebrate his first Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Ambrose Parish, Chicago on Sunday, April 28th. This is a parish where he ministered while a student at Catholic Theological Union; it has a large number of parishioners from the African Diaspora.

Yes, you read that correctly. It's St. Clare of Montefalco and St. Ambrose Parishes ... in Illinois!

If you cannot make the trip, Deacon Anthony will offer a mass of Thanksgiving *here* at St. Ambrose on the following Saturday, May 4th at 4:00 p.m.. This will be followed by a dinner in the ARK for our parishioners and the family and guests of Deacon Anthony.

I can't quite define what happened at this year's Lenten Dinners. I do know, however, that they had a character different than those in prior years. There seemed to be a more pacific, less stressful mood that pervaded the gatherings – from the back to the front of the house. Feeding hundreds of people with a mostly volunteer staff is never easy, and yet we managed to do so with a minimum amount of problems. This year, we started strong and kept going. We never fed fewer than 300 diners each and every week!

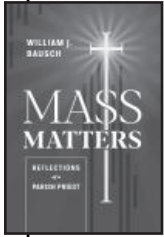
The example begins at the top. **Chef Reva Constantine** and the crew from Great Lakes Catering came into our kitchen as consummate professionals. Their people meshed well with **Chef Vonzell Whaley** and our volunteers. And even though we were often short-handed when it came to volunteers, many Ambrosian helpers rose to the task. Our young people have always been one of our greatest assets in projecting an aura of friendliness and service. They were matched this year by a group of 40 adult volunteers – many of whom came week after week to perform the most menial of tasks cheerfully. At the Last Supper, it was the Lord himself who took on the role of servant/waiter and, by example, told his disciples that they needed to do the same. This lesson from Jesus hit home with our parishioners, and their example was not lost on our guests.

There is a certain skill set that people must have to put on a great meal. There is another skill set which is more rare, and that is to make the guests at table feel welcome. I am proud to say that we are mastering both sets of skills.

With the replacement of our dishwasher to the tune of \$12,000 the very first week of Lent, any of the already slim profit margin we hoped to gain from our Lenten Buffet was gobbled up at the onset. Yet, the true profits from the event were quickly evident in the table fellowship that was engendered. I am proud of you Ambrosians for being such a strong sign of a welcoming community.

TRP

Marcellina's Book Club



The Mass and its concomitant imperative of the formation of intentional Catholics is the theme of Mass Matters by William Bausch who insists on the need to make our communal source of unity and strength – the liturgy – as clean, focused and empowering as possible because the deep truth is that the people kneeling next to you will be your strongest allies in rebuilding a Church so badly in need of reform. So don't be put off by this book's initial lighthearted focus on the criticisms of the Mass, critiques both sober and cranky, serious and funny, challenging and entertaining. Rather try to be mindful of the subtle subtext that slowly sneaks up on you and ultimately invites you to a new mantra to live by, to reform by: don't leave . . . lead.

The date of our next bookclub meeting is to be determined. In the meantime, pick up a copy of the book and get a headstart in reading this important work.

Stewardship Moment

In today's first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Peter boldly offers his testimony to the risen Christ. He shared with the crowds what he himself witnessed: Jesus' friendship, healing and forgiveness. Peter proclaims a resurrected life that brings hope. The Christian life is, indeed, a resurrected life. It is new life, one of truth, inner joy and genuine fulfillment. God has transformed our lives for all eternity, and that transformation is what it means to be a Christian. Do you know the resurrected life? Have you genuinely experienced it? Good stewards have, and in their joy, they are committed, like Peter, to offering their own witness.

For those good stewards of their faith who die with Jesus, they rise with Christ their savior every day. They are an Easter people. Our Savior is active, alive, and transforming us and our communities of faith, even the world, at this very moment. It is time to rejoice. Christ the Lord is risen today! Alleluia!

The Buzz

Happy Easter! In fact, there is really nothing happier than Easter. It can't be celebrated in just one day, nor even in just one week as is Passover by our Jewish brothers and sisters. In fact it is celebrated on our calendar as a "week of weeks" (7 days x 7 weeks = 49 days + 1 = The Fiftieth Day / Pentecost).

Easter is the core of our Faith; there is nothing more important, and it actually gives meaning to everything before and after it. That's why we are reminded (cf. "Easter Duty", by official Church Precept if you need it) to be in full Communion with the risen body of Christ at least during this time each year. But why limit yourself? There is no better way to live all year round, because I guarantee if you let it, it will last forever!



If you have really taken the plunge into life-made-new by a faith relationship with the risen Lord, you know there is no happier way to live. Our newly initiated Catholics this year, especially those who joined us at the Easter Vigil, are great reminders of this. Please keep them in your prayers; we've asked them to keep you in theirs as well. When you see them, continue to encourage them . . . remember, you're partly responsible for their decision to join us – you and God, that is!

And too . . . it is not too early to start thinking about people you know who would like to explore becoming Catholic or completing their full initiation. Inquirers about such things are welcomed all year round. Reassure anyone thinking about such things that the adult process here at St. Ambrose is very relaxed and informal. The only wrong inquiry is the one not made. So encourage such a person to give me a "no-obligations" call at 332-5631 to see how we might be of assistance to them in their exploratory journey of faith.



This Easter season will continue with our First Communion children celebrating this sacrament at a specially solemn liturgy next month. Then, Eastertide will wrap up with another Initiation Sacrament – Confirmation (for adults and older teens) from all over the Archdiocese at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday, June 9th. Contact us immediately (313-332-5631) if you have never been confirmed as a Catholic and you recognize that the risen Lord is calling you to this sacrament of deeper relationship with Him. The process of preparation is both individualized and relaxed – no pain, yet still a lot to gain!



The liturgies of the Easter season help us to focus on the vitality of the early days of the Church when the experience of the risen Lord and the gift of the Holy Spirit blossomed in prayer, charity, conversions and varieties of ministries. This is the season to seriously listen for how your renewed life in the risen Christ might be calling you to new involvement in the activities of this faith community. Lots of ways to be more involved take very little energy or time, yet are vital to the spirit and health of the parish: roles in worship, in education, in service outreach to the poor or homebound, in fun-and-important social activities, etc. Everyone can and should get in on the action. The current Archdiocesan emphasis – "Unleash the Gospel" – highlights that the owned and lived faith of each and every member (no bystanders, right?!) is the lifeblood of true parish viability and growth. If you need any help deciphering how you might fit into this, give us a call at 822-2814. Eastertime is the right time to just do it.

Wesolego Aleluja!
Chuck Dropiewski

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.

Journey of Hope

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. . . . When Simon Peter arrived . . . he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. (Jn 20:1, 6-7)

We conclude the most solemn week of the liturgical year with Easter resurrection. We are grateful to have the opportunity to walk the walk with Jesus. We have kept the faith alive. The tomb is empty! Through the power of Christ's resurrection, we have won triumphantly with Jesus. Easter Eve has broken the turmoil of our darkness. The glorious Light of Christ has conquered the world.

Easter springs from the faithful festival of Christ's Passion. Saturday Eve, we moved from the darkness of our Passion journey with a bright Easter fire. Liturgically, we join the procession of the great Paschal Candle, signifying the risen Christ. The Resurrected One is the light that drives out the darkness of our church and our lives. Jesus says, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." (Jn 8:12).

We have witnessed a total self-giving of Jesus. By emptying himself, Jesus became human to step into our mess so that humanity would be restored back to God the Father. Now, this powerful resurrection has meaning for us when we receive the gift of Christ in the Eucharistic bread and wine.

Now we need to expand our meetings with the risen Christ. We need to seek him wherever people live. In faith, we need to allow Christ's Spirit to lead us to love and care for others. This resurrected truth should strengthen our faith to connect us in personal relationship with Jesus. Christ's resurrection fully points us to the objective of spreading the love of God. This great news of Christ risen is still a living force for all Christians. Therefore may we be like Magdalene, proclaiming the news of resurrection. Just so, may we be like the apostles who responded straightaway by running off to the tomb to see for themselves. On this Easter festival, let any stones that block our journey of hope be rolled away as we too rise with our Lord. By trusting in the resurrection of Jesus, we can all find hope and joy, and go out to share them with others. May the grace of Christ's resurrection on this journey of hope bring us perpetual healing, peace, victory and freedom.

Dn. Anthony Kote-Witah, OFM Cap.

Rel. Ed. Program Reminders:

- **Parish Easter Eggs:** The religious education students in grades five, six, and seven assembled the Easter eggs which you received today. They included special prayers inside. Additionally, they prayed over the eggs and blessed them. We hope that all who receive them truly experience the joy of Easter.
- **Alms Quarter Collection Folders:** Don't forget to turn in your folders on Easter Sunday or April 28th at Merit. All donations will go to Bishop Gumbleton's Kay Lasante Ministry in Haiti.
- **8th Grade Confirmation Meeting #2:** This Wednesday, April 24th 7:00-8:15 p.m. in the ARK. At this meeting we will discuss the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, review the program components from our last meeting, and discuss the details of the retreat and service day. A detailed letter was mailed home.
- **Semester's End:** We do not have class on Easter Sunday. Our last formal classes for the semester are scheduled for April 28th and May 5th. Our program year will conclude with a special May Crowning Family Liturgy on May 5th at 11:15 a.m. followed by hospitality in the ARK. Be sure to mark your calendars!

Kelly Woolums

2	0	CSA
1	9	Box Scores

Number of Families	900
Returns in 2018	262
Returns to date	6
Average Gift ('18).....	\$463
Quota for the Archdiocese	\$85,267
Property/Liability Insurance ...	\$52,000
Parish '19 Target.....	\$137,267
Received as of 4/15/2019.....	\$12,878

- The 38th Annual Catholic Services Appeal is now underway. We opened the campaign with a remarkable advance gift which sets the bar high!
- Remember that once our quota for the Archdiocese is met, all gifts to the CSA are exempt from the regular 7% Archdiocesan tax. It's a great time to help your parish. All overages go to paying our property and liability insurances..

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, April 22

Office closed - no services

Tuesday, April 23

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Anton & Elaine Andrulis
Carter Billiu

Wednesday, April 24

8:30 a.m. - Morning prayer

Thursday, April 25

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Lou & Fran Kastely

Friday, April 26

8:30 a.m. - Ray & Rosanna Tessmer
Dorothy Borowski

Saturday, April 27

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

Sunday, April 28

Second Sunday of Easter

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



Scriptures for Easter Week

Monday, April 22

- Acts 2: 12, 22-23
- Ps 16: 1-2a, 5, 7-11
- Mt 28: 8-15

Tuesday, April 23

- Acts 2: 36-41
- Ps 33: m4-5, 18-20
- Jn 20: 11-18

Wednesday, April 24

- Acts 3: 1-10
- Ps 105: 1-4, 6-9
- Lk 24: 13-35

Thursday, April 25

- Acts 3: 11-26
- Ps 8: 2a, 5-9
- Lk 24: 35-48

Friday, April 26

- Acts 4:1-12
- Ps 118: 1-2, 4, 22-27a
- Jn 21: 1-14

Saturday, April 27

- Acts 4: 13-21
- Ps 118: 1, 14-15, 16-21
- Mk 16: 9-15

Sunday, April 28

- Acts 5: 12-16
- Rv 1: 9-11a, 12-13, 17-19
- Jn 20: 19-31

Second Sunday of Easter April 27th and April 28th

4:00 p.m. - **Celebrant:** Fr. Bede **Lector:** Cathy McPherson

Eucharistic Ministers: Beverly Bennert, Matthew Strong, Mary Urbanski

Altar Servers: Joseph, Andrew, & Bethany Strong

8:30 a.m. - **Sunday - Celebrant:** Fr. Bede **Lector:** Norman Cure

Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Gatzke, Christopher Harrison, Bob Jogan,
Colleen Jogan, Steve Linne, Joellyn Valgoi, Chris Walsh

Altar Servers: Nicholas, Margaret, & Meredith Kramer

11:15 a.m. - **Celebrant:** Fr. Bede **Lector:** Kurt Vatalaro

Eucharistic Ministers: Anne Billiu, Doris Fleming, Michele Hodges,
Joe Hugh, Janis Ramsey, Cristina Swiatkowski, Patty Yaden

Altar Servers: Shea Vatalaro, Malvina Lubanski

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

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

On Sunday, April 14, 2019

in envelopes we received \$9,262.00

in the loose collection \$801.00

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

for a total of..... **\$11,463.00**

Over budget for the week..... \$1,363.00

Number of envelopes mailed 900

Number of envelopes used..... 155

*"He went about doing good and healing all
those oppressed by the devil, for God was
with him." (Acts 10:38)*

On this Easter Sunday, open your hearts to
receive God's love, mercy and forgiveness.
God is love and we are made in His image
and likeness. Let our lives reflect His light
to others. Pray for guidance on how to live
your life and give thanks for all that He has
given you.

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 Bucec, Emilie Kasper, Darby
O'Toole, Anna Noto Billings, Vilma Rivers,
Vilma Marone, Eileen O'Brien, Martha
Luna, Dina Engels, Liz Linne, Donna
Barnes, Betty Greenia, Alexandra Cullen,
Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Alex
Billiu, Gladys Bogos, Wayne Wallrich,
Lupe Davila and Fr. Phil Naessens.

Marriage Coaching

The Marriage Coaching pro-
gram is a couple-to-couple mentoring
program designed to assist couples to
live out God's plan for their marriage.

Trained Coaching Couples
provide support and practical skills to
help couples restore and realize the
fullness that is intended for their mar-
riage. The Marriage Coaching program
consists of seven main coaching ses-
sions and is strictly confidential and at
no cost. Contact: (313) 237-4680, go
to aod.org/marriagecoaching or email
familyministry@aod.org.

Riverview Wellness

Ascension Health Care spon-
sors a weekly offering of activities in
their Riverview Wellness Center Medi-
cal Pavilion located at 7633 E. Jefferson.
Visit healthcare.ascension.org/events or
register by calling 313-499-4035

Tai Chi for Seniors takes place
every Monday for an hour beginning at
2:30.

Hustle For Your Health takes
place on Wednesdays from 11:30 until
12:30 Here you'll learn dance moves to
improve posture, coordination, agility
and flexibility.

Gentle Flow Yoga also takes
place on Wednesdays. It starts at 1:00
and goes for 55 minutes. These ses-
sions focus on breath, balance/flexibil-
ity, strength/toning, revitalization, core
strength and stress relief.



Join us on Facebook
facebook.com/stambroseparish

A Breakdown of the CSA Budget

The Catholic Services Appeal funds more than 100 ministries, programs and services in the Archdiocese of Detroit and beyond. No CSA gifts have ever been – or ever will be – used to settle claims of any nature against the Archdiocese, or support projects outside of the Archdiocese. The only exceptions are six specific missionary collections overseen by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Specifics are found at aod.org/csa.

The budget for the 2019 Catholic Services Appeal is \$17,881,028. This is how last year's CSA was distributed:

- 37.58%, or \$6,619,127, went to Sacred Heart Seminary, parishes, schools and national collections.
- 13.25%, or \$2,725,315, went to Seminarian Education and Priestly Vocations
- 11.41%, or \$2,009,924, went to Catholic Schools, Evangelization, Youth and Minority Ministries.
- 7.27%, or \$1,280,464, went to Communications, Social and Digital Media
- 10.74%, or \$1,891,995, went to Stewardship and Development Programs
- 4.28%, or \$754,347, went to the Metropolitan Marriage Tribunal

This History of Easter

Easter is the celebration of Christ's resurrection, the culmination of Christ's mission and the foundation of our faith. Easter is also the oldest Christian holiday, one that Pope Leo I regarded as the greatest feast of the liturgical year, a conviction that has since been widely embraced. As St. Paul wrote, "If Christ has not been raised, then your faith has been in vain." (I Cor 15:14).

St. Bede suggests that word Easter could be related to *Estre*, an ancient goddess of spring. The more common term for Easter was the Latin *Pasch* or *Passover*. Easter was the *Festa Paschalia*, a name that is plural because Easter is not just a one-day event but includes seven more days of celebration (called the Easter octave). The name Easter is also related to the German word of east, *ostern*, where the sun rises. So the associations of light from the rising sun and the new life of spring naturally carry over to our celebration of new life through Christ.

The fixing of the date of Easter was complex and somewhat controversial. To the members of the early Church, every Sunday was regarded as a celebration of the resurrection. When it was determined to single out one day to highlight the feast, there was disagreement as to the proper date. Some Christians, including St. Irenaeus and St. Polycarp, felt it should coincide with the Jewish Passover, which was determined by the lunar calendar, while others preferred the Sunday celebration date that eventually prevailed when the Council of Nicaea in AD 325 determined that Easter is to be celebrated on the first Sunday following first full moon that occurs on or after the spring (vernal) equinox.

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 wherever you are.

Motor City Makeover

There are big changes ahead for Detroit and the area immediately surrounding St. Ambrose Parish. Author and parishioner John Gallagher will be with us to bring us up to speed on three important development projects that will change the face of this part of town. This session will be held on Sunday, June 23rd from 9:45 until 11 a.m. in the ARK

Jefferson /Chalmers : A Strategic Neighborhood

A new development with a grocery store and affordable housing is expected to anchor a revamped Jefferson Avenue in east Detroit. The project is a part of the Strategic Neighborhood Fund, a city of Detroit initiative seeking to reinvigorate areas in the city outside downtown and Midtown with the help of philanthropic dollars. Jefferson-Chalmers is one of seven neighborhoods the city is targeting to attract investment. Plans presented to residents seek to attract investment to return East Jefferson to the walkable, thriving retail corridor it once was.

The Transfiguration of Mack Avenue

On Mack between Connor and Cadieux, approximately 41 percent of the lots are vacant. While the majority of those vacant lots are between Connor and Alter, there are still many empty on the south side of Mack in Grosse Pointe Park. The Eastside Community Network has stepped up to try to stymie disinvestment and redevelop the area. To further reinvest, ECN hired VENTRA Group and Hamilton Anderson Associates to develop a strategy to improve Mack Avenue from Connor to Cadieux.

Keeping our foot on the Gas

Detroit will get a Jeep factory, the Motor City's first new auto assembly plant in a generation, as part of a \$4.5 billion manufacturing expansion in southeast Michigan by Fiat Chrysler that will mean nearly 6,500 new jobs. FCA said it would convert the Mack Avenue Engine factory to an assembly plant for the next-generation Jeep Grand Cherokee and a new, large Jeep SUV.