

Jesus' First Week Home from Prison

The week of Jesus' resurrection is his first week home from prison after a very public arrest, trial, imprisonment and death sentence. Jesus' closest friends do not recognize him; they are frightened and mistake Jesus for everything from a ghost (Luke 24:37) to a thieving gardener (John 20:15).

Biblical interpreters have spent thousands of years trying to make sense of why the seemingly joyful event of Jesus' resurrection is haunted by unrecognition. Many have presumed that Jesus rises from the grave with a body that is somehow different – flesh that bears the marks of the execution but has somehow been transformed. If Jesus has come back with a changed body, the argument goes, then the fear and lack of recognition that his disciples show toward him make sense.

Perhaps. But after many years of friendship with people who have been locked up and released, I have come to see that the stories of Jesus in the wake of his resurrection look startlingly like the experiences of every other formerly incarcerated person in the wake of his or her release. Miraculous bodies and transfigured flesh are not needed to explain the fear and awkward renegotiation of relationships that pervade the Easter stories: Jesus is home from prison and his church simply doesn't know what to do with him.

Prisoners talked about what it would be like to go home soon, a changed person, and not be recognized by your closest friends and family.

What it would be like second-guessed, feared, and to have to prove yourself. All four gospels mention that Jesus' friends are filled with fear at his resurrection (Matthew 24: 4, 8, 10; Mark 16: 5, 8; Luke 24: 5, 37; John 20: 19). We noticed that, in these Easter stories, Jesus is constantly telling people "Peace. Peace. Peace be with you," whenever he comes into a room. Jesus takes the initiative to dispel everyone else's concern about his presence among them.

We talked about how Jesus is brave and vulnerable to share the story of what happened to him by showing his

hands and his feet – the scars of his incarceration – over and over again. Jesus was willing to speak openly about his incarceration so that others could know him for who he is, and this group of women was committed to doing the same.

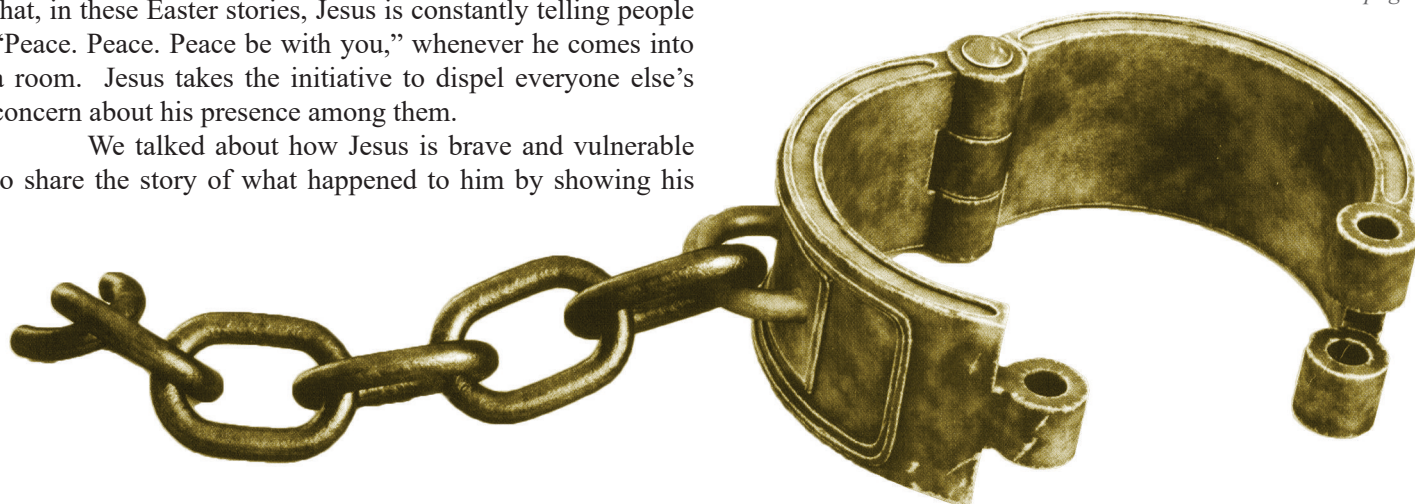
In Matthew's telling, there is no way to forget that Jesus has a record; the gospel makes clear that Jesus' release from the tomb is a continuation of the story of his involvement with the justice system. The reader is given details about the security measures taken at the tomb, the guards posted where Jesus' body is being held, and the process by which these safety and security measures were decided.

In Matthew's gospel, the resurrection smacks of the criminal; it's all a "deception" pulled off by Jesus, the well-known "imposter" (27: 63-64). Jesus is imagined as a con man running one last con. After a quick 10 verses about the resurrection itself, Matthew describes what is essentially a government cover-up – the payoffs and instructions that create an official story concerning how Jesus managed to disappear from his state-supervised tomb (28: 11-13).

While Matthew tells the story of Jesus' release from a government perspective, John and Luke highlight the personal and relational aspects of Jesus' return to his family and friends. In both gospels, Mary Magdalene is lifted up as one who stands with Jesus at the foot of the cross during his public execution (John 19: 25).

Unsurprisingly, the one who stuck by Jesus while he was in prison is the first to come and care for his body after his death. Yet somehow, even with Mary's faithfulness to Jesus, not only does she not recognize him, she mistakes him for a

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thieving gardener. John 20: 15 says: “thinking that he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him.” Mary does not recognize Jesus until he looks her in the face and speaks her name.

Mary is not the only one who cannot recognize Jesus. In Luke’s telling, Jesus appears to two unnamed disciples on the road to Emmaus. He walks and talks beside them, and they cannot see Jesus for who he is (24:16). Immediately after this, Jesus appears to the disciples as a group, and Luke tells us “they were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost” (24:37). “They’re scared of him, and he just wants something to eat!”

And for the first time in my reading of Jesus as being a formerly incarcerated person, I noticed that Jesus gets mad about this stuff. Mark’s gospel tells us that Jesus “rebuked the disciples for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe” (16:14). When Mary finally recognizes Jesus in John’s gospel, he tells her to back off. Jesus needs space – even from his closest supporter – when she falls into the common trap of not being able to see him for who he is (20:17).

In *The Executed God*, theologian Mark Lewis Taylor uses Jesus’ arrest, imprisonment, and execution to offer insight into the experiences of what he calls “lockdown America.” Likewise, the stories of Jesus coming home from prison can offer insight into those coming home today. According to the Bureau of Justice’s National Prisoner Statistics Program, between 600,000 and 700,000 people are released from prison each year in the United States. What can we learn from the resurrection about what it might mean to welcome Jesus home well?

In John 21:15 Jesus asks Peter three times, “Do you love me?” Peter did not stand by Jesus in his trial and sentencing. Because of this, he and Jesus must have a hard conversation after Jesus is released about what Peter’s prior absence means for their relationship going forward. If Peter is willing to follow a formerly incarcerated Lord, that task is simple: “Feed my sheep.” But Jesus is quick to acknowledge that simple acts of care will mean that Peter will have to go to places where he is uncomfortable. Following Jesus will ultimately lead Peter to prison. Acknowledging that our Lord has a record does not change the basics of the Christian message, but it does change where one goes and how one acts once there.

Jesus’ own patterns of ministry are changed by his experience of death and resurrection. In these stories, we no longer see him going to formal places of worship. Rather he meets his followers where they are: on the road, at work, in graveyards and at home.

Perhaps following our former incarcerated Lord means that we, like Peter, must learn to go to new places. Like Peter, we must acknowledge when we haven’t been there for people in prison, offer friendship despite previously failing to do so, meet basic needs, and learn to be church beyond the walls.

But most important, if we want to follow God who made it through prison and into the resurrection, we must be willing to change our perceptions and see formerly incarcerated people for who they truly are: not risk, threat, or even thieving gardeners – but images of the Risen Christ.

Edited from an article by Sarah Jobe from the May, 2019 issue of Sojourner magazine.

Retrouvaille

The Retrouvaille Program consists of a weekend experience combined with a series of twelve follow-up sessions over the course of six weeks. It provides the tools to help put your marriage in order again. The main emphasis of the program is on communication in marriage between husband and wife. It will give you the opportunity to rediscover each other and examine your lives together in a new and positive way. Their next weekend is May 3-5. For confidential information or to register call 800-470-2230 or go to HelpOurMarriage.com.

First Friday Holy Hour

Join us for a holy hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament this coming Friday following the 8:30 morning mass. It will conclude at 10:00 a.m. This is an extension of the First Friday Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

What are the “promises” connected to this devotion? Jesus said to St. Margaret Mary, “In the excess of the mercy of my heart, I promise you that my all powerful love will grant to all those who will receive communion on the First Fridays, for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance: they will not die in my displeasure, nor without receiving the sacraments; and my heart will be their secure refuge in that last hour.”

This means that if a person faithfully receives communion for nine consecutive months on First Fridays, Jesus will grant that person extra graces at the time of their death, making it possible to repent of their sins and receive the last rites (if needed).

This is the 12th promise connected to the First Friday Devotion to the Sacred Heart. The other promises are:

- (1) I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
- (2) I will establish peace in their homes.
- (3) I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
- (4) I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death.
- (5) I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
- (6) Sinners will find in my heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
- (7) Lukewarm souls shall become fervent.
- (8) Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
- (9) I will bless every place in which an image of my heart is exposed and honored.
- (10) I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
- (11) Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in my Heart.

All Things Considered

Christian initiation is always a celebratory occasion for our Church. In spite of all the hits our faith has taken in recent months, dioceses across the country welcomed some 37,000 adults into the Catholic Church at Easter Vigil Masses on April 20th. While people can become Catholic at any time of the year, the Easter Vigil is a particularly appropriate moment for adult catechumens to be baptized and for already-baptized Christians to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. Parishes welcome these new Catholics through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

Here in our Archdiocese of Detroit, some 800 persons were received into the Catholic faith last week – we can account for five of them here at St. Ambrose; **Jamie Goodrich, Monique Konecny, Ryan Perry, Aaron Distelrath** and **Mary Zavicar**.

This is a blessing and a symbol of God's grace and the activity of the Holy Spirit. My thanks to our RCIA director, **Chuck Dropiewski** and everyone in the parish who were integral to the process. You helped fulfill "the Great Commission," by evangelizing and making disciples through your faith and good example.

Is the Spirit prompting you or someone you know toward making a move toward a profession of faith and Communion with us?



Another Lent is history – and another seven weeks of St. Ambrose Lenten Buffet Dinners – in the books.

As I've mentioned the last few weeks, we had an incredible response from diners to Great Lakes Culinary Center **Chef Reva Constantine's** delicious, from-scratch dinner items (the

first week's polenta dish has to be a keeper for next year!).

In all, we served 2,105 meals over seven weeks, not counting the meals we sent over to the City of Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department. As we look at the number of dinner patrons, it's up from last year's 1,794 meals served, or a 17.3 % increase from 2018. In 2018, we only



Three of our five catechumen (l-r) Jaime Lynn Goodrich, Aaron Robert Distelrath, Monique Elaine Konecny



met or surpassed the 300 mark in attendance once. This year, we only failed to hit 300 one time: the very first event on March 8th. Social Media did a lot to propel the event. We welcomed guests from Windsor, from Toledo, all parts of Oakland and Macomb Counties, even a few from West of Woodward – and you know what a cultural divide that can be.

We're grateful for our volunteers from the parish who helped make this year's Lenten Buffet Dinners a success. More than 40 adults and 15 young people gave their time week after week (a good number of them never missed a week) and made it look like they were having fun. I am impressed by the spirit of camaraderie and community I observed at these dinners. I am also pleased that things went smoothly in the kitchen. Thank you to **Chef Vonzell Whaley** and our kitchen volunteers, who worked well with the crew from Great Lakes in helping make this year's dinners a community success.

As you are aware, St. Ambrose does not make money on the Lenten Buffet Dinners. My goal is to provide the best quality meal in a first-class din-

ing environment. We've always seen the fish dinners as a loss leader for our parish, and this year was no different. However, we did take a larger hit to our budget than expected, and we will have to have a price hike in 2020. But that's next year. For now, we're basking in the success we achieved this year and the gratitude we have for those who helped make that happen.

This weekend I will be attending the ordination and first mass of our Deacon Intern, **Anthony Kote-Witah**. His ordination to the priesthood is taking place this Saturday, April 27th at St. Clare of Montefalco Parish in Chicago. His first mass will be this Sunday morning, April 28th at St. Ambrose Parish in Chicago. Yes, you read that correctly. It's St. Clare of Montefalco and St. Ambrose in *Chicago*. In the Archdiocese of Chicago, Saint Clare parish is under the pastorate of the Capuchins. St. Ambrose is an Archdiocesan parish on the near South side which is home to many of the African Catholic diaspora. Brother Anthony worked in that parish while he was a student in the seminary.

If you did not make the trip to our doppelgänger parishes in Illinois, Father Anthony will offer a Mass of Thanksgiving here at St. Ambrose on this coming 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 Anthony, some of whom have come from Nigeria for the event. Help us make proper food prepa-

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All Things Considered

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rations by calling or emailing your intention to attend the dinner.

Inevitably, the topic of an ordination gift comes up. Because Brother Anthony is a member of a religious order that requires a vow of poverty, gifts complicate things. In the history of the Franciscan movement, the Capuchin Reform stressed a return to the poor, austere lifestyle embodied by St. Francis of Assisi. As the Capuchin Constitutions state: "Let us cultivate radical poverty, both personal and communal, and out of love of the Lord's Cross, to lead a life of austerity and joyful penance." So by choice, a Capuchin gives up ownership of everything. Now, there are some common-sense exceptions.

I've checked with the Capuchins regarding gifts given to their Friars. They informed me that their general rule is that all monetary gifts (cash and checks) should be turned over to the Province. It's part of their vow of poverty and an expression of what they call 'the fraternal economy.'

Obviously, though, if parishioners want to give a friar specific items, the Order allow them to keep those things, in part because of the sentimental value and symbolism that they often carry.

While you may or may not choose to give Fr. Anthony such a personal gift, what has worked well for us in the past with our other Capuchin interns is a corporate gift. By pooling our resources we will be able to provide Fr. Anthony with some more substantial item – approved by his superiors – that he can use in remembrance of his time with us at St. Ambrose. Contact our office for details about this.

Fr. Anthony will be in Assisi, and Rome, Italy this summer. He will also return to his native Nigeria for a few weeks. It's my understanding that he will be stationed at St. Bonaventure Monastery upon his return. So we'll again be seeing him here at St. Ambrose.

TRP

The Faith Formation Station

"Blessing is like the spiritual bloodstream that flows through the universe. When we bless something, we are returning what we have received to its source."

- Brother David Steindl-Rast

Easter is so much more than a single celebration. Easter is so important that we cannot celebrate it in one day. To fully celebrate the Easter season it takes 50 days, or a Pentecost (the Greek word for 50). Each one of these 50 days, in fact, is Easter. That is why the Church speaks of the Sundays of Easter, rather than the Sundays after Easter.

And what do we celebrate during this 50-day Alleluia? Jesus' resurrection from the dead, his eternal and everlasting victory over death, and the gift of salvation poured out upon the world.

10 SIMPLE WAYS TO HARNESS EASTER JOY EACH DAY:

1. Begin each day by thanking God for all the good things in your life.
2. Give God all of your fears and worries.
3. Offer up the suffering and disappointments you experience.
4. Do something nice for someone.
5. Be a forgiving person. Let go of anger and resentments that drag down your spirit.
6. Take a moment to appreciate the beauty of the emerging springtime.
7. Don't be afraid to make mistakes. Learn to laugh at yourself.
8. Find ways to show family members and friends how much you appreciate them.
9. Live more simply. Clear out possessions that are not essential to your happiness.
10. End each day by thanking God for all the good things in your life.

SOME FAMILY PRAYERS FROM SUPER PALM SATURDAY:

Dear Jesus, we thank you for food, shelter, and giving your life up. We will share your love by helping the homeless and sharing kindness.

Dear Jesus, thank you for forgiving our sins. We will share your love by going to church and loving others in the world.

Dear Jesus, we thank you for the gift of life and for your mercy and grace. We will share your love by loving others and sharing the Gospel message with the world.

Dear Jesus, we thank you for family and friends, food and shelter, loved ones, our faith, and salvation through Jesus' sacrifice. We will share your love by being good disciples.

BREAKING BREAD BREAKFAST in preparation for our Solemn Communion celebration with our second grade students will be held **next** Saturday, May 4th, from 9:00 a.m. – Noon in the ARK. First Eucharist families will come together to celebrate a meal, share in prayer, and make a banner for Solemn Eucharist which will be celebrated on May 11th at 1:30 p.m. First Eucharist families are expected and need to RSVP by April 29th so we can prepare adequate food.

MAY CROWNING. All classes will participate on Sunday May 5th at the 11:15 a.m. Liturgy. Assemble in Church after our last class this semester for a special May Crowning family liturgy and hospitality in the ARK afterwards.

DAMASCUS DECISION POINT RETREAT is the name of a new Confirmation retreat we are planning for those preparing for that sacrament this coming January. Students need to have their families confirm registration by May 15th: Our Confirmation students and high school classroom assistants are invited to participate in a 3-day overnight retreat at the Damascus Retreat Center in Centerburg Ohio this fall. Look for more details about this amazing opportunity in upcoming bulletins.

Kelly Woolums

Journey of Hope

I wish to depart from my usual column format to share a few personal thoughts with you this week as I will have been ordained a priest this Saturday, April 27th. I am grateful to be Brother Anthony, Capuchin friar and priest, and so thankful to God and my parents. The Lord brought me to this world into a poor Christian family of Deezia Aaron Witah, my father, and my sweet Mother, Maatema Mary Witah. I am also grateful to my three siblings— Singto Innocent, my senior brother and my two sisters, Wanaawuga and Kara and family. I am indeed thankful to my Capuchin community and those here and elsewhere in your never-ending prayers for me.

This journey of my priesthood began the very day that I was born. Mrs. Waaduguro Wayih a family relative revealed my calling/identity on that fateful day I was born. She started calling me “father” in the sense of “priest”. When I grew up I asked her why she was always calling me “Father”? She responded that she was there when I was born and that I reminded her of an Irish missionary priest at St. Dominic parish Bane. Rightly so, the prophecy of this faithful Anglican woman is accomplished. That reminds me of Jeremiah chapter One: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you. Before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you” (Jer1:5).

The wellspring of priestly ministry was when my relative, Fr. Paul Legborsi Oyor was ordained. Fr. Paul drew me closer to see, learn and discern the beauty and gift of priesthood. Thus I became so drawn to him to embrace the value of priestly calling till his early death. My memory of him has always been a reflection of the story of Elijah and Elisha crossing the river. Elijah imparting his double portion of his blessing and the gifts of God upon Elisha. Similarly, Fr. Paul blessed me before he went to heaven. This awareness of priesthood is to become servant of the servants. This means to embrace a deeper relationship to have constant conversation with God. He is the source of my identity. So ‘Father’ for me means having a unique relationship with my Abba—Father. Priesthood is a great opportunity to become father of the body of Christ.

Once again, I appreciate the support and payers during my Diaconal inter-ship here at St. Ambrose which came from its parishioners and pastor, Fr. Timothy Pelc. You have faithfully carried me into this victorious share of priesthood. Answering the name, Father, is beyond a mere title. Rather, it is striving to become a true servant of God’s people. I want to thank the parish for mentoring me and supporting me with your love and prayers. I will return the favor this coming Saturday when I will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving here at 4:00 p.m. Thanks also to the parish for hosting my family and friends at the dinner reception that will follow that mass.

My late uncle Fr. Paul Oyor used to say, “I am a Father of many children because every member of the church and others come to me for intercession of God’s favor.” Therefore my placement ministry at the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit will do just that. Ministry and Liturgy are built around openness to God for self-giving – like Mary. That is my desire: sharing God’s love and hope with those who visit the Blessed Solanus Center. My ministry will also include the soup kitchen and blessing of the sick healing services and so forth. As Blessed Solanus said so often: Deo gratias! Thanks be to God!

Dn. Anthony Kote-Witah, OFM Cap.

Vincentian Reflection

In the Gospel today, Jesus stands in the midst of us and says “Peace be with you!” This allows us because of the mercy of God to center our heart and mind on God’s peace and love. This past month, because of your love for our neighbors in need, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference here at St. Ambrose was able to help 30 families with food, rent and utility payments, clothing and household goods like beds, sheets, blankets, dishes and pots and pans. All these items helped to bring them Peace and helped them to know that they are loved.

2	0	CSA
1	9	Box Scores

Number of Families	900
Returns in 2018	262
Returns to date	52
Average Gift ('18).....	\$463
Quota for the Archdiocese	\$85,267
Property/Liability Insurance ...	\$52,000
Parish '19 Target.....	\$137,267
Received as of 4/23/2019.....	\$45,596

- The 38th Annual Catholic Services Appeal is now underway. We experienced a strong opening with half of our quota already achieved!
- 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: Rev. 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 29

St. Catherine of Siena, virgin & doctor

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Tuesday, April 30

St. Pius V, pope

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Kerry Wilhite

Wednesday, May 1

St. Joseph the Worker

8:30 a.m. - Morning prayer

Thursday, Mat 2

St. Athanasius, bishop & doctor

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Cormac O'Byrne

Bill Magee

Friday, May 3

Sts. Philip & James, apostles

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Rev. Edward Farrell

Andrew Harrison

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. - Holy Hour

Saturday, May 4

4:00 p.m. - Mass of Thanksgiving;

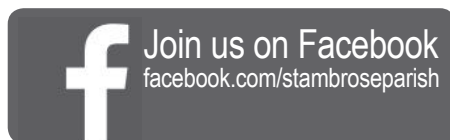
Fr. Anthony Kote-Witah

Sunday, May 5

Third Sunday of Easter

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

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



Scriptures for 2nd Week of Easter

Monday, April 29

- Acts 4: 23-31
- Ps 2: 1-3, 4-7a
- Jn 3: 1-8

Tuesday, April 30

- Acts 4: 32-37
- Ps 93: 1-2, 5
- Jn 3: 7b-15

Wednesday, May 1

- Acts 5: 17-26
- Ps 34: 2-9
- Jn 3: 16-21

Thursday, May 2

- Acts 5: 27-33
- Ps 34: 2, 9, 17-20
- Jn 3: 31-36

Friday, May 3

- 1 Cor 15: 1-8
- Ps 19: 2-5
- Jn 14: 6-14a

Saturday, May 4

- Acts 6: 1-7
- Ps 33: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19
- Jn 6: 6-21

Sunday, May 5

- Acts 5: 27-32, 40b, 41
- Rv 5: 11-14
- Jn 21: 1-19 or 21: 1-14

Third Sunday of Easter May 4th and May 5th

4:00 p.m. - Celebrant: Fr. Anthony Kote-Witah **Lector:** Elizabeth Puleo-Taguei

Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Bennert, Della Cimini, Karen McShane,

Altar Servers: Jack Hern, Eleanor Bernas

8:30 a.m. - Sunday - Celebrant: Fr. Bede **Lector:** Karlos Haynes

Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Drummond, Christopher Harrison, Joan Jackson, Maggie Jackson, Bob Jogan, Colleen Jogan, Joellyn Valgoi

Altar Servers: Nicholas Kurta, Alyssa Flores

11:15 a.m. - Mass and May Crowning - Celebrant: Fr. Pelc **Lector:** Leslie Leitch

Eucharistic Ministers: Doris Fleming, Pat & Michael Mocer, Sue & Roger Playwin, Janis Ramsey, Darryk Swiatkowski

Altar Servers: Liam & Maria Liburdi

Your Envelope Speaks . . . the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish

requires a *minimum* of..... \$10,100.00

On Sunday, April 21, 2019

in envelopes we received \$15,599.00

in the loose collection \$2,976.00

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

for a total of..... **\$19,965.00**

Over budget for the week..... \$9,865.00

Number of envelopes mailed 900

Number of envelopes used..... 205

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'" (John 20:21)

Peace – the first gift of the risen Lord. Just as Jesus sent the apostles out into the world, so too, He sends us. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be grateful and generous. Look for opportunities to share His peace, not only within our local parish boundaries, but outside of them as well. In giving, we receive the peace of Jesus Christ.

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.

Sri Lanka

The following statement has been issued by Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops regarding simultaneous explosions in Sri Lanka targeting the country's minority Christian community as well as luxury hotels around Colombo on Easter Sunday morning. At least 200 people were killed and more than 400 injured in the terrorist attacks.

"This morning in Sri Lanka a coordinated series of bombings killed hundreds of worshipers in Catholic Churches and others of all faiths in nearby hotels. The Churches were St. Sebastian's Church in Negombo, St. Anthony's Shrine in Colombo and Zion Church in the eastern city of Batticaloa.

This great evil targeted these churches as they were packed full of worshipers who were celebrating Easter, the day in which Christians around the world celebrate the rising of the King of Peace from the dead. We offer our prayers for the victims and their families. And we join with all people of good will in condemning these acts of terrorism. This evil cannot overcome the hope found in our Savior's Resurrection. May the God of hope who has raised his Son, fill all hearts with the desire for peace."

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

Catholic Services Appeal

The mission of the Church is to proclaim and establish the Kingdom of God on earth. Advancing this mission requires our clergy, religious, and lay faithful to unite in our common goal of pursuing the pastoral priorities of the Church. For over 30 years, the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) of the Archdiocese of Detroit has been a particularly successful way we have come together to advance our mission.

Together, as Christian stewards, we live out the Gospel mission of our Church through our support of the CSA. The ministries, programs and services funded by our annual appeal reach every soul in our six-county Archdiocese, strengthening urban and rural faith communities alike. No one individual or parish could possibly accomplish all these good works themselves. Truly, the CSA transforms our diverse family of believers into, in the words of Pope Francis, a “band of joyful missionary disciples.”

We are grateful to our pastors, who lead this effort in their parishes, and to our parish and archdiocesan staff and lay volunteers who do the hard work of annually conducting the CSA. We are particularly grateful to our many faithful stewards who so generously give their treasure to the CSA, benefiting all their brothers and sisters in Christ throughout southeast Michigan.

“A Christian steward is one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them generously in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord” (U.S. Bishops' 1992 Pastoral Letter, Stewardship: A Disciple's Response, p.9).

You may respond to the materials that have been mailed to you. Or you can also give online at give.aod.org. Be sure to select St. Ambrose in the pull down menu so that we are credited with your donation.

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.