



## Reclaiming The Day of the Lord

The Archdiocese of Detroit is in the midst of a “missionary conversion, a change in our culture, such that every person at every level of the Church, through personal encounter with Jesus Christ, embraces his or her identity as a son or daughter of God and, in the power of the Holy Spirit, is formed and sent forth as a joyful missionary disciple.” This conversion requires a re-examining of the way we live collectively as a community of faith. The Church in Southeast Michigan is responding to graces of Synod 16 and actively seeking to Unleash the Gospel in our personal lives, our families and through our institutions.

One of the clearest calls from Synod 16 was for our Church to reclaim Sunday as a day set apart for the Lord, for family and for works of mercy. There are many necessary and worthwhile pursuits which occupy our time and energy all throughout the week, but from the earliest days of the Church, Sunday was unique for Catholics. In our time, Sunday has slowly lost its pride of place. In the Archdiocese of Detroit, we are committed to setting aside this day as much as possible for God-centered pursuits.

First and foremost, Sunday is the day of the Resurrection of Jesus to new life. It is the day that definitively marked Jesus’ victory over sin and death, and it is the day that represents that in Jesus we too share in this same victory through our baptism. Therefore, Sunday is not an ordinary day, not just another day of the week. Every Sunday is a mini-Easter Sunday! It is right then to say that Sunday is truly the Lord’s Day.

The first way we keep Sunday holy is through our worship of the Triune God. This is done most perfectly in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, where we offer back to the Father the very life of the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, the disciples of Jesus made it a hallmark to gather as a community of believers on this day. The Code of Canon Law and the Catechism of the Catholic Church state that “on Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass.” This obligation to attend Sunday Mass – either on the day or on the vigil in the evening – is the most essential way we individually and collectively worship the Lord who gave himself for us.

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## The Day of the Lord

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Our communal worship flows out from the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass into many other areas: “Sharing in the Eucharist is the heart of Sunday, but the duty to keep Sunday holy cannot be reduced to this.” Eucharistic adoration, personal prayer, reciting the Rosary, time for catechesis and Bible studies, faith sharing groups and the like all are ways families and individuals honor the Lord’s Day beyond Sunday Mass. We are called to live this whole day in recognition that we are God’s people, intimately united to him through the blood of Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Our rest on this day also imitates the first “rest” of God after the work of creation: “He rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken.” God teaches us the value of work — through creation, in the very life of Jesus and in the lives of the saints — but he also teaches us the value of rest. Too often in our world we are valued by how busy we are. This “cult of busyness” is not of the Lord. Taking the Lord’s Day not to be busy with the affairs of the world but rather to rest in more important pursuits honors God and helps us to show him more perfectly to our world. Southeast Michigan needs men and women who can manifest the presence of God through their work and through their rest.

When work becomes the most important thing in our lives, we value ourselves and others by what they can contribute rather than by who they are. This leads to devaluing of human life which Pope St. John Paul II called the “culture of death,” and which Pope Francis calls the “throwaway culture.” We are not valued by what we can contribute to society. Instead our worth comes from what God has done for us: We are made in his image and likeness, and Christ has died for us. When we choose to make Sunday a day of rest, we choose to renounce these false cultures and live as part of Christ’s band of disciples.

Keeping holy Sunday also reminds us of our eternal destiny; it allows us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. We put aside the worldly pursuits which are necessary for this life but too often become a distraction from what is ultimately important: “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides.” Sunday is a day to rest from work so that we have the time and leisure to pursue things that do not have worldly utility. Unless we take this regular time away from these matters, we will easily and quickly lose sight of our ultimate destiny. Our attention needs to be intentionally interrupted from our earthly work to call to mind the reality that we are joint heirs with Christ of the things of heaven.

For our local Church to be faithful to the graces of Synod 16, we also must commit to seeing Sunday as a day when families can be together. The vision for families laid out in *Unleash the Gospel* requires time set aside from many other good activities so that families can be together, free from other distractions. Some of the particular aspects of Sunday family

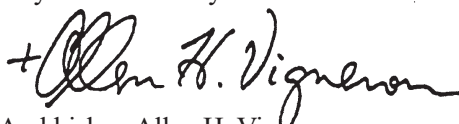
time include family Scripture time, the family Rosary, making use of parish activities together as a family and “reclaiming Sunday” through Mass and a shared meal. For some families, this time together has been marked by “technology-free family time” on Sunday, when parents and children set aside their phones and other devices and commit to spending uninterrupted family time together.

Finally, Sunday is the day when the Holy Spirit was poured out in power upon the disciples of Jesus. In fact, John Paul II called Sunday a “weekly Pentecost.” Therefore, Sunday is a fitting day to grow in our faith. Catechesis for young people and for adults is not out of place on this day. It also is a day to witness to our faith. That first Pentecost saw the apostles boldly proclaiming Jesus as Lord. As we seek to live a new Pentecost, we should be witnesses to God’s mercy, particularly on the Lord’s Day. This means we should look for opportunities to share our faith with others on this day. We do this in our words of kindness, by sharing our faith with others and through works of charity, especially to the less fortunate.

In the Foundational Conviction section of *Unleash the Gospel*, I wrote that “this missionary conversion” calls for a “strikingly countercultural way of living.” Living Sunday more radically and intentionally as God’s people will help us do this. It will help us to root our lives in prayer and the sacraments. It will create the space for us to demonstrate unusually gracious hospitality and to include those on the margins. And it will remind us of God’s presence even in difficult and stressful times, so that we can be Jesus’ band of joyful missionary disciples in Southeast Michigan.

What follows here are details about one particular way we are committed to this “strikingly countercultural way of living.” After prayerful consultation with the presbyterate of Detroit, and responding to what I believe is the call of the Holy Spirit through Synod 16, we in the Archdiocese of Detroit will cease sporting events on Sunday. This means that competitive athletic programs in the grade school and high school levels are called to no longer play games or conduct practices on the Lord’s Day. In the months ahead, we will offer a number of resources to assist families in their own practice of keeping holy the Lord’s Day.

In shifting away from the hustle of required sporting activities on Sunday, we will reclaim this holy day and create more time for families to choose activities that prioritize time spent with each other and our Lord. As the Catholic Church, our primary role is to form disciples. Informed by Synod 16 and inspired by the Holy Spirit, we look forward to abundant blessings as we seek to abide by our God’s teaching to keep holy the Lord’s Day.

  
Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron



# All Things Considered

We've cleared the necessary quota that our Archdiocese demands from us for this year's Annual Catholic Services Appeal. From here on, a great bonus accrues to St. Ambrose Parish. We get to keep all that is collected over and above the Archdiocesan goal. And like at Christmas, those funds are not subject to the regular 7% tax on donations or contributions.

Giving to St. Ambrose now through the CSA is a smart move and quite frankly, we could use the extra cash! While we have paid back our building loan of 4 million (with an additional 2 million in interest), we had to skimp on a lot of other expenses and repairs. We're still catching up. A boost from a CSA overage would go a long way to help our bottom line. Just remember that everything you give now to the CSA goes to our budget – no deductions for the “mother ship”.

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The Director of the Resident Artists Programs at the Michigan Opera Theatre, **Richard Leech**, is working with **Paul Lavins** in securing talent for our CSA/MOT Opera Breakfast on June 9<sup>th</sup>. This is our way of thanking those who contribute to this year's Catholic Services Appeal. Get your contribution in before then so that you can enjoy a wonderful morning of uplifting music in good company!

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Our St. Vincent de Paul Society will be accepting donations of your good and/or gently used clothing and household items in our church parking lot on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from noon until the 4:00 p.m. mass, and on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 a.m. until 11:15 a.m. mass. Follow the advice of St. Ambrose, “If you have two shirts in

your closet, one belongs to you and the other to the man with no shirt.”

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St. Ambrose at one point in its century-long history stood as a parish built around High School sports. That was considered a laudable model of parish cohesion, since nothing brought the parishioners together better than a championship team. Of course, this was the model of pastoring at that time. Any pastor worth his salt wanted to boast that “his teams” beat those of his neighboring parishes. It was, as they say, a different age.

That story is preserved because the associate pastor back then, **Fr. Robert Rokusek**, asked a student, **Rick Gosselin**, to report parish sports for this parish paper.

In later life, Rick wrote the book Goodfellows, The Champions of St. Ambrose, which showcased our football glory story that spanned nearly a decade back in the 1960's.

Between 1957 and 1967, St. Ambrose with a co-ed enrollment of around 300 students produced six football All-Americans, 16 all-state performers, and future NFL players and Super Bowl champs. They were all products of this legendary place where old-fashioned values reigned, where teamwork triumphed over individual glory and where sports was the glue of this community.

Rick went on to become one of the best reporters ever to cover the NFL. Later this June, a film crew from NFL Films will be here at the parish collecting background footage for a special celebrating Gosselin's 50 years as a sports journalist.

By the time of my arrival back in 1986, I inherited only a shell of a football team at St. Ambrose Academy. A handful of Ambrosians and supporters rallied to make our CYO elementary school Football team something akin to what had been its past glory. It was always a futile exercise, since the team lacked the funding and depth of support of the old Ambrosians.

One of my frequent problems which I took to the Vicariate was that the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) teams were encroaching on Sunday mornings for their games. Getting the CYO to enforce the 1:00 p.m. starting rule was always a challenge. (Yes games started at 1:00, but some reasoned that there had to be warm-ups and practice starting in some cases hours earlier.) It always struck me odd that one of the organized obstacles to family mass attendance on Sunday was our very own CYO.

I stopped battling that issue when St. Ambrose Academy closed. In later years, our Religious Education Director **Betty Haley-Milan** would pick up the fight for enforcement of the Sunday morning rule.

Our Ambrosian athletes still play CYO sports as part of the St. Clare of Montefalco teams. As far as I know, our joint teams are in compliance with the CYO ruling to keep Sunday mornings free from scheduled practices and games. But apparently this is not true across the whole Archdiocese, thus prompting **Archbishop Vigneron's** recent missive on moving all CYO sports off of Sunday all together.

While I am supportive of the ruling, I am amazed that Archbishop Vigneron decided to not opt for any half-way measures when it came to Sunday sports sponsored by the CYO. His prohibition is dramatic and probably decades too late. CYO sports will continue to thrive but I suspect that the public school system which already tends to encroach on Saturdays and Sundays for a whole lot of extracurricular activities will provide new excuses for Catholic families to exempt themselves from Sunday worship. I hope that I am wrong.

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Our parish is hosting a dinner for about 100 low income adults at the St. Patrick's Senior Center in the Cass Corridor. It will take place on Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. There is a signup sheet for those who want to provide food. If

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## All Things Considered

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you and/or your family can give some time, you would be greatly rewarded by a group of grateful seniors – many of whom see this as their main meal of the week. Shared transportation will be offered. Call (313) 822-2814.



One of the great projects that brought together hundreds of volunteers from all over the area was our community-built playscape. While it took months to plan, it was built in one long-weekend back in 1996. Since then, it's given countless hours of recreation to the kids in the Academy and neighborhood.

The custodian of the Playscape for many years now has been George Bush. Recently, the families of Merit Academy have stepped up to assist with its maintenance. But as a “hand-crafted” piece of work, the Playscape is showing its age. Any number of features have been dismantled. Some, like the swings, were taken out at the request of the faculty who grew tired of monitoring equitable usage. Some of the specialty items like the percussion instruments and some games, got damaged and needed more repair time than was allowed on a weekend. The bridge between the towers has always been popular. It just wore out.

The Playscape, while still having lots of life in it, is starting to show its age. Parish finances being what they are, we have no ability to hire carpenters to do these repairs. I am now starting to hear “tear it down”, which I am loathe to do. Maybe it's just nostalgia on my part for a golden moment from our past. It's time to look at some long-range planning for the Playscape. It's also time for a committed group of people to come up with some financial resources to take care of the immediate and long-range needs of the site. We did this once before. It can happen again. I am asking that interested persons get in touch with George at our parish website or by phone at 822-2814.

TRP

## 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 south-east 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.

**Playscape  
Birthday Party**  
This coming Saturday,  
June 1<sup>st</sup> from 9 to 3  
Look for sign-up sheets at the back of church  
and plan to party and work next Saturday.

## Faith Formation Station

*"I thank my God every time I think of you.  
Every time I pray for you, I pray with joy!" - Phil 1:4*

At this time of year, we look back at some of its highlights. Your child/ren, the other students, catechists, coordinators, and volunteers and I have shared prayer, Scripture reflections, and other activities that helped us learn about Jesus, Scripture, our Church, the sacraments, and the liturgical year. I could say that the "end result" is that our faith is stronger. But I won't say that – not because our faith is not stronger, but because there is no "end result." Every day brings us learning opportunities. During the months ahead, you and your child/ren may not study a textbook, but you will have countless opportunities to live the teachings of Jesus about love, compassion, forgiveness, generosity, and justice – and in that way learn more about our faith. My prayer during the months ahead is that we learn something new about our faith every day, not in a textbook, but in living with love the teachings of Jesus.

Fr. Tim, the catechists and classroom assistants, and I all wish you and your family a joy-filled summer ahead. We look forward to seeing you in Church!

Congratulations to the following dedicated students who had perfect or outstanding (only 1 absence out of 25 classes) this faith formation year: Nick Bennert, Addy Brownsberger, Hannah Brownsberger, Isabella Calin, Amy Ezop, Cecily Hartung, Evie Hartung, Carina Jensen, Ella Johnson, Sara Johnson, Vivian Leech, Audrey Lorenzo, Rose Perotta, Mina Pohlman, Emma Truza, and Piper Truza.

Our catechists celebrated the end of our faith formation year with dinner and feather bowling at the Cadieux Café. It was a great opportunity for us to get to know one another better and have fun! Did you know that our program had 22 catechists, 4 office assistants, and 26 teenage assistants this past year? What an amazing show of support for the faith journey of the young people of St. Ambrose Parish! We are truly grateful for all the time, effort, heart, and faith they put into their ministry. If you are interested in joining our catechetical team, please see the information below.

**REL. ED. REGISTRATION for 2019-2020:** Be sure to check your email in early June for information on registering for religious education for next year; we are hoping to have an online registration form set up to make the process easier for families. We will once again offer an early-bird tuition discount incentive for families who register by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**CATECHISTS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We are in need of a few new catechists and classroom assistants for the 2019-2020 religious education year. If you or someone you know might be called to the ministry of sharing one's faith with the children of St. Ambrose parish, please consider joining our catechetical team. We will provide you with all the support you need. If interested, please call or email the religious education office: (313) 332-5633; reled.stambrose@comcast.net.

**DECISION POINT RETREAT RSVP:** Your child's RSVP and non-refundable deposit for the upcoming Decision Point Retreat is due to the parish office by June 1<sup>st</sup> to secure a spot at the retreat. Please call or email us with any questions or concerns you may have. We will have a detailed meeting for the retreat in September.

**MULTILINGUAL PENTECOST:** As has been our tradition here at St. Ambrose for a good number of years, we celebrate that solemn day at each mass (June 8-9) by having readers to do portions of the Acts of the Apostles passage in many different languages. If you can read a few lines in another language, please contact Chuck Dropiewski this week at 313-332-5631 and he'll answer any questions you may have and will provide you with deeply thankful support and necessary texts.

Kelly Woolums

2	0	CSA
1	9	Box Scores

Number of Families .....	900
Returns in 2018 .....	262
Returns to date .....	127
Average Gift ('18).....	\$463
Quota for the Archdiocese .....	\$85,267
Property/Liability Insurance ...	\$52,000
Parish '19 Target.....	\$137,267
Received as of 5/22/2019.....	\$92,182

- The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Catholic Services Appeal is now underway. We have experienced a strong opening with our minimal target 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

**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, May 27**

*St. Augustine of Canterbury, bishop*

Office Closed - No Services

**Tuesday, May 28**

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Patrick & Ann O'Connor

**Wednesday, May 29**

8:30 a.m. - Morning prayer

**Thursday, May 30**

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Bob Ramsey

**Friday, May 31**

*The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Sr. Irene Kerich, O.P.

**Saturday, June 1**

*St. Justin, martyr*

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

**Sunday, June 2**

*The Ascension of our Lord*

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

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



## Scriptures for 6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter

**Monday, May 27**

- Acts 16: 11-25
- Ps 149: 1b-6a, 9b
- Jn 15: 26-16: 4a

**Tuesday, May 28**

- Acts 16: 22-34
- Ps 138: 1-3, 7c-8
- Jn 16: 5-11

**Wednesday, May 29**

- Acts 17: 15, 22-18: 1
- Ps 148: 1-2, 11-14
- Jn 16: 12-15

**Thursday, May 30**

- Acts 18: 1-8
- Ps 98: 1-4
- Jn 16: 16-20

**Friday, May 31**

- Zep 3: 14-18a or Rom 12: 9-16
- (Ps) Is 12: 2-3, 4bcd, 5-6
- Lk 1: 39-56

**Saturday, June 1**

- Acts 18: 23-28
- Ps 47: 2-3, 8-10
- Jn 16: 23b-28

**Sunday, June 2**

- Acts 1: 1-11
- Eph 1: 17-23 or Heb 9: 24-28 10: 19-23
- Lk 24: 46-53

## *The Ascension of our Lord* *June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>*

**4:00 p.m. - Celebrant:** Fr. Pelc **Lector:** Mary Urbanski

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Della Cimini, Matthew Strongi

**Altar Servers:** Andrew, Joseph, & Bethany Strong

**8:30 a.m. - Sunday - Celebrant:** Fr. Pelc **Lector:** Mark & Benjamin Corrion

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Christopher Harrison, Joan Jackson, Maggie Jackson, Bob Jogan, Steve Linne, Joellyn Valgoi, Chris Walsh

**Altar Servers:** Nicholas, Margaret, & Meredith Kramer

**11:15 a.m. - Celebrant:** Fr. Bede **Lector:** Roger Playwin

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Beverly Bennert, Anne Billiu, Michele Hodges, Joe Hugh, Janis Ramsey, Cristina Swiatkowski, Patty Yaden

**Altar Server:** April Caballero

## Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish

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

**On Sunday, May 19, 2019**

in envelopes we received ..... \$6,703.00

in the loose collection ..... \$561.00

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

for a total of..... **\$8,654.00**

**Under** budget for the week..... **\$1,446.00**

Number of envelopes mailed ..... 900

Number of envelopes used..... 125

*"...do not let your hearts be troubled  
or afraid." (John 14:27)*

Our limited human understanding cannot begin to understand the immense power of God. Instead of trusting in God, we think we can control every outcome. Do you want to make God laugh? Tell Him your plans. The next time worry, anxiety or fear creeps in, thank God for all He has given you and trust that He has a better plan for 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.

## CSA/MOT Opera Breakfast

Commitment Weekend for the Catholic Services Appeal takes place on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> following the 8:30 and 11:15 a.m. masses when we will host our Ambrosian Opera Breakfast in the ARK. We will be celebrating all those who have made a commitment to the 2019 Catholic Services Appeal – and hopefully, the achievement of our goal. We've invited the **Director of the Resident Artists Programs at the Michigan Opera Theatre, Richard Leech and a group of performers from the Michigan Opera Theatre to be on hand to regale us with a selection of operatic highlights.**

In gratitude for your support of the Catholic Services Appeal, come join us for this uplifting musical breakfast celebrating St. Ambrose. There is no charge for those who have made a commitment to this year's CSA. Reservations are requested so that we can make adequate arrangements. RSVP by June 6<sup>th</sup>. Email [stambrose@comcast.net](mailto:stambrose@comcast.net) or call (313) 822-2814.



Join us on Facebook  
[facebook.com/stambroseparish](https://facebook.com/stambroseparish)

# Details about the CYO Sunday Sports Policy Change

## How was this policy created?

Unleash the Gospel – the pastoral letter, the fruit of Synod 16 – called for several “Action Steps” to fulfill the movement of the Holy Spirit we witnessed during the Synod. One of these action steps was to cease sporting events on Sunday. This was a theme that had been brought up by parents and pastors for many years, and it emerged again as a clear direction for the Archdiocese of Detroit during Synod 16. To allow for this new policy to be implemented smoothly, a timeline was set for it to take effect at the beginning of the 2019-2020 academic year.

Implementing this policy has been an intentional process involving many key constituents over the last two years. Beginning in June 2017, all seasonal meetings with Athletic Directors included notification of this upcoming change in policy. Next, we created a task force with diverse representatives including pastors, coaches, families with and without children in sports programs, principals, representatives from the Catholic High School League (CHSL) and the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), and the Office of Evangelization, Catechesis and Schools. This committee reflected on the pastoral letter’s Action Step 3.3C and developed a plan to fulfill its call to cease sporting activities on Sundays. Per Canon (Church) law, this policy was presented to and reviewed with the Presbyterial Council in February 2019, where it ultimately was approved. Prior to that meeting, the draft policy was sent to all priests in the Archdiocese to solicit input.

In the Catholic Church, our primary role is to form disciples. As the Archbishop shared in his recently released pastoral note: This is about living in a counter-cultural way that witnesses to our faith. We are confident this is what the Lord wants, and we look forward to abundant blessings as we seek to abide by the Lord’s teaching to keep holy the Sabbath.

## Will our student athletes still play full schedules when this policy is implemented?

Yes. While the new policy is deeply rooted in our calling to reclaim Sunday as a day of rest and worship of our Lord, practically speaking, it is a matter of rescheduling. The Catholic High School League and Catholic Youth Organization have already been working carefully to ensure teams enjoy a full line-up of practices, scrimmages and games, taking advantage of a Monday through Saturday schedule.

## Are youth sports still a priority in the Archdiocese of Detroit?

Absolutely! We continue to embrace sports and athleticism. Sports teach perseverance, discipline, teamwork and the knowledge that it takes effort to improve. Perhaps most importantly, physical activity is a key to our health; Catholics consider our bodies temples of the Holy Spirit and we are encouraged to take care of ourselves. And of course, watching sports is a favorite pastime of countless people regardless of religious affiliation.

Here in the Archdiocese of Detroit, we have a vibrant Catholic Youth Organization program for our grade schools and the Catholic High School League for high school athletes. Our teams play public, charter and other parochial schools. This commitment to youth sports will remain unchanged as we implement our new policy. In shifting away from sports on Sunday, we simply reclaim this holy day as one for worship, rest and family time – not one for rushing to various sporting competitions.

## Have other dioceses and religions moved away from having sports on Sundays?

Yes. Other dioceses and leagues have moved toward limiting sports on Sunday or encouraging coaches to schedule activities on other days. We know that the Michigan High School Athletic Association doesn’t schedule games on Sundays, as well as members of some religions, such as Calvinists. In addition, we have in the past honored the Sabbath of our Jewish brothers and sisters by ensuring games against the Frankel Jewish Academy are not scheduled between sunset Friday and sunset Saturday. This new policy is about extending that observance to our own Holy Day.

## Who will enforce this policy?

The policy will be enforced by CHSL and CYO leadership. We know that any society cannot be governed by policies alone, so our focus will remain on sparking a tangible “change in culture” to orient all our parishes, schools and communities toward our Christ-centered mission. We are confident that since it is a direct result of prayer, broad consultation and reliance on the Holy Spirit, this change will bear fruit for all those involved.

## Does this policy apply for games played against public school teams?

Yes. Officials with the Catholic Youth Organization and Catholic High School League will work closely with their counterparts in the public school systems to arrange for games to be scheduled on days other than Sunday. Exceptions may be made for state-level tournament competitions that we are not able to re-schedule.