

St. Ambrose Parish

DECEMBER 1, 2019
BEEHIVE



Evangelizing the Parish Through Advent

When was the last time you heard Advent mentioned outside of church? The religious observance of Advent goes largely unrecognized by a wider culture preoccupied with Christmas. And yet when those who are unfamiliar with Advent are introduced to it, there is often a deep resonance. Because Advent is an honest season, and it offers a remedy to all the cultural impulses of this time of year, it allows us to be ourselves, to slow down, and to look inside. If we carve out a bit of space – God will fill it. Advent is appealing for all the right reasons: lighting candles at the darkest time of the year, expressing our deepest longings, yearning for the One who will redeem us all.

We have a gulf between the Church's practice of Advent and its absence in the wider culture. Chocolate candies for each day leading up to Christmas is not what Advent is about. As the world mindlessly races toward Christmas, the Church tells us to slow down and look deep within. Stop. Wait.

If you view liturgical ministry as being in direct competition with the demands of the wider culture, you will lose every time. But it's not a competition. You can leverage the depth of the Advent season to meet real spiritual hungers. When the world is working itself into a frenzy, get out your Advent toolbox; you don't need to recreate the wheel. Just dust off the rich traditional items that lie within.

Let's start with the Advent wreath. There are some pretty wimpy ones out there, with candles that burn down to stubs in no time. Toss them! We have four long weeks of watching and waiting, and it's about time Advent candles started pulling their weight. Purchase seven-day vigil candles that are thick and safely enclosed in glass. These candles can be within a fresh wreath. Light a candle on the wreath and keep it lit while you go about your evening activities at home. This is a good way to keep your focus on Christ.

Or you can light a candle at dinner and read a line or two out loud from the rich daily Mass readings of Advent. Families should at least hear the words. This can also help families begin to develop a habit of incorporating Scripture into their prayer time and becoming comfortable discussing it together.

Don't forget to tap into people's generosity – for example, with a Giving Tree. The ornaments are pieces of paper that can be grabbed by the members of your community, for charitable causes like "Pregnancy Aid." Feel free to adjust to the needs of your larger community, like maybe for a retirement community or opportunity for your families to "adopt" families in need in the area, providing a meal and appropriate gifts. If the families can get to know each other a little, then all the better.

Continued on page 2

Evangelizing the Parish Through Advent

Continued from page 1

Again, this is a season of darkness, a season of longing. The prophets had been silent for centuries before John started shouting in the desert. What did he shout? "Repent!" From what do we need to repent? If you've forgotten, go sit at the mall for a while. Notice the frenzy. Notice the tension and greed. But look also at the faces, and ask what those brothers and sisters of yours are really hungry for. And what about you?

At our house, we put off decorating our home for Christmas as long as possible. This nearly kills our kids, of course, but it gives them some tiny taste of fasting in a culture that feasts nearly every night. We want some little glimpse for them of a world where two-thirds of the people go to bed hungry. Meanwhile, we try to fill ourselves with greed and gluttony, though our hearts are starving.

It is an honest time of year. I am consistently stunned by friends who aren't religious who ask what need we have of a "savior." I want them to tune into the endless reports of violence, poverty, war, hatred, neglect, suffering, loneliness, and on and on. As Chesterton said, Original Sin is the only dogma of the Church that is repeatedly proven in the daily news.

And yet in the middle of all this there is "Rejoice!" Paul exhorts us, "I say it again, rejoice!" In the midst of a world that resists redemptions, during a time of year that even too many Christians (we think, in our self-righteous fervor) celebrate wrongly, we are reminded to be joyful. A generosity emerges this time of year (even among the pagans!) that can't help but warm the heart. Even if they are celebrating Christmas too soon, and Advent not at all.

When you are overwhelmed during this season, go home, shut off all but the purple or blue Advent lights, and put on "O Holy Night." Feel it. "A thrill of hope! A weary world rejoices!" Weary indeed. Then go back to silence, and wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior.

*Reprinted from the 2020 Sourcebook: The Almanac for Pastoral Liturgy,
Liturgical Training Publications ©2019.*

Pregnancy Aid Giving Tree

For 26 Advent seasons now, we have erected a **Pregnancy Aid Giving Tree** in our church building as a demonstrative way of supporting our pro-life convictions. This Giving Tree outreach program benefits the local Pregnancy Aid Society at 17325 Mack, where women with unplanned pregnancies can find positive alternatives to abortion. Take a gift tag from the tree as a pledge and a reminder to bring back attached to a present for a newborn at one of our Christmas masses.

The Pregnancy Aid Society has a wish list which includes: baby clothing (0-12 mos.), sleepers, blankets, bibs, undershirts (one-piece snap-style), bath accessories, baby toiletries, diapers (size 1 and 2), strollers, breast-feeding accessories and informative books like: "You and Your Baby" or support items such as "Baby Einstein" DVDs, books and toys. "Pack 'n Plays," along with Pack 'n Play-sized crib sheets, are also welcomed, as are all gently used baby furniture and car carriers. In short – things that are practical, educational and essential. The major assimilation of these items takes place at our Christmas Eve Children's liturgy, but early gifts can be brought in on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21st and 22nd, or later to any of our Christmas masses. Gently used baby furniture, strollers and car seats are also a welcome gift – call for special drop-off instructions. All these items brought in are part of an inventory from which Pregnancy Aid draws all year long. There are few better ways to give a birthday present today to Jesus than through this Pregnancy Aid project.



Feast of the Immaculate Conception

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, is the patronal feast of the United States, and as such it is a Holy Day in this country. This feast honors Mary, the Mother of God, and celebrates the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary in the womb of her Mother Saint Anne.

The Immaculate Conception is celebrated on December 8th. An important date in salvation history, this holiday is never abrogated even when December 8th falls on a Saturday or a Monday. However, since December 8th 2019, is the Second Sunday of Advent, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is transferred to Monday, December 9th, this year. The obligation to attend Mass, however, does not transfer.

Mass for the Holy Day will be offered at 10:00 in the morning on Monday, December 9th and at 7:00 in the evening. It's a good time to pray for the guidance and protection of Mary for these United States.

All Things Considered

It's not your imagination. Yes, your mailbox has been stuffed with solicitations from just about everyone you ever thought of and some you haven't. Statistics show that one-third of charitable giving happens in December – and 12% of all giving happens in the last three days of the year.

Many good causes depend on this end of the year boost, and your parish does too. Every December we promote the cause of the Pregnancy Aid Society – makes sense in a season built around the birth of our Child Savior in abject poverty. Our St. Vincent de Paul Society makes a push for a more person-to-person appeal for family assistance.

The best part of these “asks” is that it puts a personal face to the poor, or it least it can.

Three weeks ago Pope Francis gave a dinner for the poor of the city of Rome. At that event, the Holy Father asked the rest of the Church: “Do I, a Christian, have at least one poor person as a friend?”

During this season of tremendous charitable giving, a donation may help absolve our consciences about the way we usually treat the poor – at a comfortable distance. While that is preferable to no involvement whatsoever, this Pope asks us to get personal.

When Francis worked in the Seminary in Argentina, he had the job of supervising the seminarians in their “practicums.” He said that if a seminarian came back at the end of the day and his shoes were clean, he knew that young man wasn't doing his job right.

Pope Francis then talked about the second temptation that Jesus warned his followers against: self-centeredness. Christians “are not concerned with the me but with the you,”

he said. “Christians do not follow the siren song of their whims, but rather the call of love, the voice of Jesus.” He reminded believers worldwide that “wearing the label ‘Christian’ or ‘Catholic’ is not enough to belong to Jesus. We need to speak the same language as Jesus: that of love, the language of ‘the you’.” Those who speak the language of Jesus are not the ones who say I, but rather the ones who step out of themselves.”

He reminded them that Jesus calls his followers to a “genuine love,” “to give to those who cannot repay us, to serve others without seeking anything in return.” He suggested that Christians ask themselves: “Do I help someone who has nothing to give me in return? Do I, a Christian, have at least one poor person as a friend?”

“Instead of feeling annoyed when they knock on our doors, let us welcome their cry for help as a summons to go out of ourselves, to welcome them with God's own loving gaze,” he preached. “How beautiful it would be if the poor could occupy in our hearts the place they have in the heart of God! Standing with the poor, serving the poor, we see things as Jesus does; we see what remains and what passes away.”

“The poor person who begs for my love leads me straight to God. The poor facilitate our access to heaven: this is why the sense of the faith of God's people has viewed them as the gatekeepers of heaven. Even now, they are our treasure, the treasure of the church.”

I would be remiss in my duty as your pastor not to remind you that one personal charity on your list should also be your home parish. Our budget is predicated on a healthy year-end tally. Since the time of Cardinal Szoka, parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit have been receiving a Christmas bonus. That is, financial gifts given to parishes at Christmas are exempt from the regular 7% Archdiocesan tax!

On any gift that is a blessing;

on a major gift it is a game changer. So if you are one of the families in the parish who uses the end-of-the-year option, remember to mark it “Christmas” and it gets counted differently from the regular weekend donations.

Haven't we always been told that “actions speak louder than words”? By going to confession, our actions show that we are sorry and that we want to be saved from our sins (which often make us feel enslaved). Our admitted faults and surrender to God's grace within the holy sacrament of Reconciliation literally shows God that we want him more than we want our sins. It clears the “gunk” out of our heart and soul, making room for the coming of Christ within us more fully ... and all those promises he made in Scripture are also applied to us. He restores us to the fullest version of ourselves. He delivers us from wickedness, redeems us from ruthlessness, restores our souls and satisfies us with all good things.

Advent Scriptures encourage us to be prepared. In the New Testament, John the Baptist is on the scene before him, crying out, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. ... Prepare the way of the Lord...” (Mt 3:3). This is why parishes across the country are hosting Penance services this month, and why the Church encourages each Catholic to go and be reconciled with God.

Our second grade religious education students have completed their preparation for the sacrament of reconciliation and will be eligible to receive the sacrament starting this Advent. We will hold a Penance Service specifically designed with them in mind this Wednesday, December 11th at 6:00 p.m. Keep the kids in your prayers.

Private confessions will be heard after masses on Monday, December 9th. And a Communal Penance Service will wrap up the Advent Season on the last Saturday before Christmas, December 21st at 2:00 in the afternoon.



Name

Home Phone

Work Phone

Email Address

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

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

First Friday Mass and Holy Hour

Advent can come as a surprise to us sometimes, beginning right after the busy Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. It's not unlike the surprise of Mary when she received news that she was pregnant with Jesus. Like her, we take the season of Advent as a time for pause, reflection, and preparation for the gift of God's love coming to us through the Christ Child.

This Holy Hour is an opportunity to take a pause and slow down at the start of the Advent season. This holy hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament will be held this coming Friday, December 6th following the 8:30 morning mass. During this Holy Hour, there will be an opportunity for private confessions.

The Holy Hour will conclude at 10:00 a.m. This is an extension of the First Friday Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. To those who show him love and who make reparation for sins, our Lord made a great pledge through Sr. Margaret Mary Alacoque: *"I promise you in the unfathomable mercy of my heart that my omnipotent love will procure the grace of final penitence for all those who receive Communion on nine successive first Fridays of the month; they will not die in my disfavor, or without having received the sacraments, since my divine heart will be their sure refuge in the last moments of their life."*

The purpose of this devotion is to draw a person closer to the heart of Christ. If a person fulfills nine successive months of these obligations with sincere faith, it is natural for him or her to be closer to God and better prepared for meeting Christ at his second coming.

Marcellina's Book Club

Tom Roberts, the executive editor for the *National Catholic Reporter* wrote in a November editorial: "The Columbian Amazon may be a distant margin in the Church, but there are much closer margins at home. One of those who have been accompanying people in the near margins – the disenfranchised, those who resist the militarization of the culture and those treated unjustly – is Bishop Thomas Gumbleton. Peter Feuerherd has gone beyond the news clippings and the Bishop's sermons to write a highly engaging biography, The Radical Gospel of Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, just published by Orbis Books."

Gumbleton is one of the rare contemporary Catholics for whom the appellation "prophet" may actually apply in all of its best meanings.

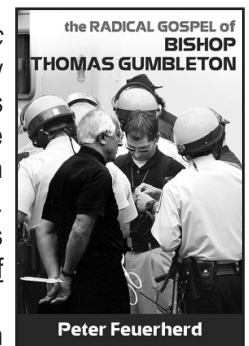
He is a remarkable example of fidelity who has managed to maintain integrity while serving the institution at the leadership level. He's paid more than a small price for that.

Feuerherd describes the inherent tension in Gumbleton's life as "a balancing act" that "may point us in the direction of a future Church that may arise from the ashes of the present season of scandal and disaffection."

Read this biography and come to understand the mind and life experiences of this aging cleric who comes into our pulpit and challenges us with his unique style of witness.

Peter Feuerherd is a correspondent for the *National Catholic Reporter's Field Hospital*, an ongoing series on parish life in the United States and Canada. Feuerherd is a veteran of the Catholic and religious press, having written for *Commonweal*, *St. Anthony Messenger*, and diocesan newspapers in Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Detroit, Albany, Long Island and New York City. He is the winner of numerous Catholic Press Association and religious press awards and is the author of *Holy Land USA: A Catholic Ride Through America's Evangelical Landscape* (Crossroad). Feuerherd is an adjunct professor of journalism at St. John's University.

At 9:45 a.m., in between our masses on Sunday, January 12th, St. Ambrose will host Feuerherd for a Q & A and talk about his book. Copies of The Radical Gospel of Bishop Gumbleton are available from Amazon or from your local book seller. We will have several copies for sale at the rectory as well.



The Buzz

Happy New Year ... Catholic Church Liturgical Year, that is! In the Sunday cycle of readings at mass, with this 1st Sunday of Advent, we are entering Year - A, with a primary use of Matthew's Gospel.

As new years go, this also happens to be the beginning of a new (25th) year of my serving you, the People of God here at St. Ambrose. I technically began here on December 1, 1995, but was already transitioning in (for free!) the previous couple of months.

During this past week of Thanksgiving, I spent a number of very special moments giving God great thanks for my time in this most special parish. I want to take this opportunity to also say thanks to all of you for the honor of being able to minister here. And this wouldn't be possible at all without the original and continuing leadership and support offered by **Fr. Pelc**. Again, thanks to you all!



Since this is a sort of new year's time, why not hit 2020 spiritually running by making and starting some new year's resolutions now. Use this Advent time to try them out. You can always readjust them and get a fresh start on January 1st.

For example, some people start diets at the beginning of a new year. How about doing the opposite for your faith: feed it ... fuel the fire! Resolve to get on a high Catholic Carb regimen that includes XL portions of prayer, learning, and acts of love for others. Share this feasting with everyone you love. I guarantee that with the built-in exercises of such a diet, there will be no accumulation of fat – only a growing health that will help you live forever. What other diet can guarantee that?!



These Advent days are chock full of great “menu items” for your “diet.” Take full advantage of as many of them as you can; it's OK to fill up on ...

❄❄❄ The Advent Calendar posted on the American bishops' website – usccb.org – that has daily suggestions for individuals and families to actively stay in rhythm with the flow of the worldwide Church's seasonal observance.

❄❄❄ Friday, Dec. 6th, is the Feast of St. Nicholas. Come to morning mass, stay for the First Friday Holy Hour, or at least spend some moment today reading an adult version of how St. Nick's life found new ways to bring Christ to his world.

❄❄❄ Saturday, Dec. 7th, is the Feast of St. Ambrose ... the 103rd time this parish has celebrated our patron saint's day. Read about the new turn Ambrose's life took when he was just trying to do his job. His is a great story!

❄❄❄ Monday, Dec. 9th (transferred from the 8th because the celebration of the 2nd Sunday of Advent takes precedence) is the patronal Holy Day of the United States – the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Come to 10:00 am or 7:00 pm mass even though it is not obligatory this year. Come reflect on how God did something incredibly new for all creation through such an unlikely person ... then carefully look in a mirror.

❄❄❄ Ordinarily Dec. 9th would be celebrated as the Feast of St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin. Because of the transfer of the Solemnity to this day, Juan gets bumped from the calendar. However, what he means to us at this point in the history of our country and our hemisphere is too important to omit. So, read about what massive changes of hearts this poor Aztec brought about in the Church because of a new alliance he entered into with the woman we know as Our Lady of Guadalupe. Come celebrate our relationship with both of them at morning mass on Her feastday, Thursday the 12th.

❄❄❄ Friday, Dec. 13th, is the feastday of St. Lucy. Light some holiday decoration for the first time today, and prayerfully stay alert for the surprising ways the true light of the world comes into your life.

Happy New Year; Happy Advent!
Chuck Dropiewski

When Your Donation Is Worth 7% More

As we come upon the last month of the calendar year, it means we are also coming up to the end of a fiscal tax period. So, it's now time to review your tax strategy.

If you intend to make an end-of-the-year gift to the parish, you'll need to date it before January 1st and get it into our office in an envelope marked “Christmas Collection.” Gifts made in this manner are free from the usual Archdiocesan taxation of 7%.

A significant portion of our parish operating revenue comes from end-of-the-year contributions which can be in the form of cash, securities, stock, real estate and other negotiables. Consult your tax preparer who can guide you as to the best way of making a donation to St. Ambrose. Or, our own parish accountant can also be of assistance if you call the rectory.

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: Louise Veltri

Dr. Norah Duncan IV – on hiatus

Office Manager: Peggy O'Connor

Secretary: Mary Urbanski

Sacramental Celebrations

Masses: On the Lord's Day –

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.

Baptism: Arrangements for both adults and infants to be made by contacting the rectory.

Penance: As announced and by appointment.

Marriage: Couples should contact the rectory office a minimum of six months in advance of the proposed date to make arrangements.

Funeral: Normally celebrated within one week after the deceased's passing.

Directory

Parish Office: 15020 Hampton

Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230

Tel: (313) 822-2814 **Fax:** (313) 822-9838

Email address: stambrose@comcast.net

Religious Education: (313) 332-5633

Pastoral Ministry: (313) 332-5631

Ark Scheduling: (313) 822-2814

Parish Website: stambrosechurch.net

Liturgy Schedule for the Coming Week

Monday, December 2

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Tuesday, December 3

St. Francis Xavier, priest

8:30 a.m. - Margaret Louise DeWinter

Rev. Michael Malawy

Wednesday, December 4

St. John Damascene, priest & doctor

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

Thursday, December 5

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Msgr. Thaddeus Ozog

Friday, December 6

St. Nicholas, bishop

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Marion Duncan

Holy Hour and Confessions following

Saturday, December 7

St. Ambrose, bishop & doctor

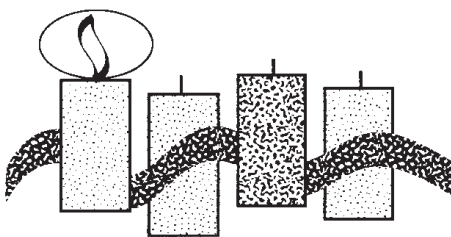
4:00 p.m. - Mass - For All People

Sunday, December 8

Second Sunday in Advent

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

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



Scriptures for the 1st Week in Advent

Monday, December 2

- Is 2: 1-5
- Ps 122: 1-9
- Mt 8: 5-11

Tuesday, December 3

- Is 11: 1-10
- Ps 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17
- Lk 10: 21-24

Wednesday, December 4

- Is 25: 6-10a
- Ps 23: 1-6
- Mt 15: 29-37

Thursday, December 5

- Is 26: 1-6
- Ps 118: 1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a
- Mt 7: 21, 24-27

Friday, December 6

- Is 29: 17-24
- Ps 27: 1, 4, 13-14
- Mt 9: 27-31

Saturday, December 7

- Is 30: 19-21, 23-26
- Ps 147: 1-6
- Mt 9: 35-10: 1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday, December 8

- Is 11: 1-10
- Rom 15: 4-9
- Mt 3: 1-12

Second Sunday in Advent December 7th and December 8th

4:00 p.m. - **Celebrant:** Fr. Pelc **Lector:** Bern Degnan

Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Bennert, Karen McShane, Matthew Strong

Altar Servers: Jack Hern

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

Eucharistic Ministers: Colleen Drummond, Colleen Gatzke, Christopher Harrison, Maggie Jackson, Colleen Jogan, Steve Linne, Joellyn Valgoi

Altar Servers: Erica, Corey, & Carrigan McGraw

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

Eucharistic Ministers: Anne Billiu, Michele Hodges, Pat & Michael Mocer, Sue Playwin, Darryl Swiatkowski, Patty Yaden

Altar Servers: Alyssa Flores, Liam O'Byrne

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

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

On Sunday, November 17, 2019 (most recent)

in envelopes we received \$9,522.00

in the loose collection \$889.00

in electronic donations \$3,051.00

for a total of..... **\$13,462.00**

Over budget for the week. \$3,362.00

Number of envelopes mailed 900

Number of envelopes used 135

Stewardship Reflection

"Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come."
(Matthew 24:42)

People who have had health issues or near-death experiences have a greater appreciation for each day as a gift from God that the rest of us usually take for granted. But when you start to look at each day as a gift you begin to see God's active presence in your life.

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 Wallich, Jerry Hansen, Lou Rondini, Jackie Walkowski, Kristen Kingzett, Denise DiBiancha, Valerie Dryden and Stephanie Majewski.

Our Dead

A funeral liturgy was celebrated on Tuesday, November 26th for **Carole "Kay" Fulgenzi**, age 86.

Kay was born and raised in Detroit – growing up on the east side. She attended St. Anthony High School and, later, nursing school at the old St. Joseph's Hospital in Detroit. Kay met her husband, William in high school. Together they raised four daughters in the Grosse Pointe area.

Kay loved to collect antiques, and she belonged to a gardening club. She also enjoyed traveling with the Nomads and was a season ticket holder of the Michigan Opera Theatre. Kay and her husband were league tennis players, and she hosted a weekly bridge game until just a month ago. She loved to cook and was famous for her pesto made from basil in her own garden.

Kay was predeceased by her husband of 52 years, William, and is survived by her children Kathy, Kim, Kristine and Karen. Also surviving are 9 grandchildren and 3 greatgrandchildren.

Oplatek

Before sitting down to Christmas Eve dinner, many families with roots in Poland and other Eastern European countries will take part in the oplatek tradition. The sharing of this unleavened bread with another person is a time to tell each other, 'I love you, I care about you.'

These wafers are sold through our parish, at our office or after mass in church. White wafers are for the human members of the family; pets get the tinted ones.

Joyful Missionary Disciples

On November 10, 2019 St. Ambrose hosted a presentation of parishioner supported outreach opportunities:

1. **Strangers No Longer (SNL)** is an emerging network of SE Michigan Catholics committed to responding to our migrant brothers and sisters in the spirit of Pope Francis and the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) who issued a pastoral letter on Immigrants and US immigration law titled “Strangers No Longer.”
2. **The Epiphany Education Center** is dedicated to helping elementary and middle school students achieve academic growth, self-confidence, and appropriate maturity. Sessions offer one-on-one tutoring.

Two organizations; two opportunities for outreach by any or all of us. One is quite local; the other is local but international in its range of more immediate impact. Volunteers or potential volunteers can contact the Epiphany Education Center at (313) 267-1830, or Strangers No Longer through Tom Cliff at (313) 244-9549 or Bill O’Brien at (313) 549-0421.

Foster Grandparents

Are you at least 55 years of age with maturity, wisdom, patience and the willingness to help children? Share your life experiences by volunteering as a foster grandparent in Oakland County! Volunteer during the day in local schools and youth facilities.

Organized through Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, foster grandparents provide support to children with special or exceptional needs and serve as role models, tutors, mentors and friends.

Serving 20 to 40 hours per week, income-eligible volunteers also receive a small stipend, pre-service orientation, and monthly in-service training sessions. Learn more about becoming a foster grandparent: Call Carol Wall at 248-537-3300 ext. 3919, or email wallc@ccsem.org.

Christmas With Our Neighbors

The St. Ambrose St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) will once again be sponsoring a “Christmas with our Neighbors” program. You can choose, from our list, a family or individual within our parish boundaries and provide them with food and goodies for the Christmas season. Sign-up sheets are available in the back of the church or by contacting SVDP through the parish rectory at (313) 822 2814. We have selected people we have helped in the past year for this program based on those with the most pressing needs. We pray that you will find it in your hearts to support this annual program and help to make the holidays a little brighter for those living in poverty. Thanks for your continued generosity.

Shop St. Ambrose

St. Ambrose offers some limited items for unique gift-giving. These are exclusive to our parish and quantities are limited.

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

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

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

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

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

St. Ambrose Honey – For the first time in many seasons we will have a limited supply of honey from the St. Ambrose hives. One jar, attractively gift-boxed, is available while supplies last at \$50. Limit: two jars per household.

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

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