

# St. Ambrose Parish

DECEMBER 22, 2019  
BEEHIVE

In the Christ child, God chose to need us. This is the message of Christmas: the profound vulnerability of the divine as it divests itself of glory in order to assume the form of a fragile creature—and a baby at that.

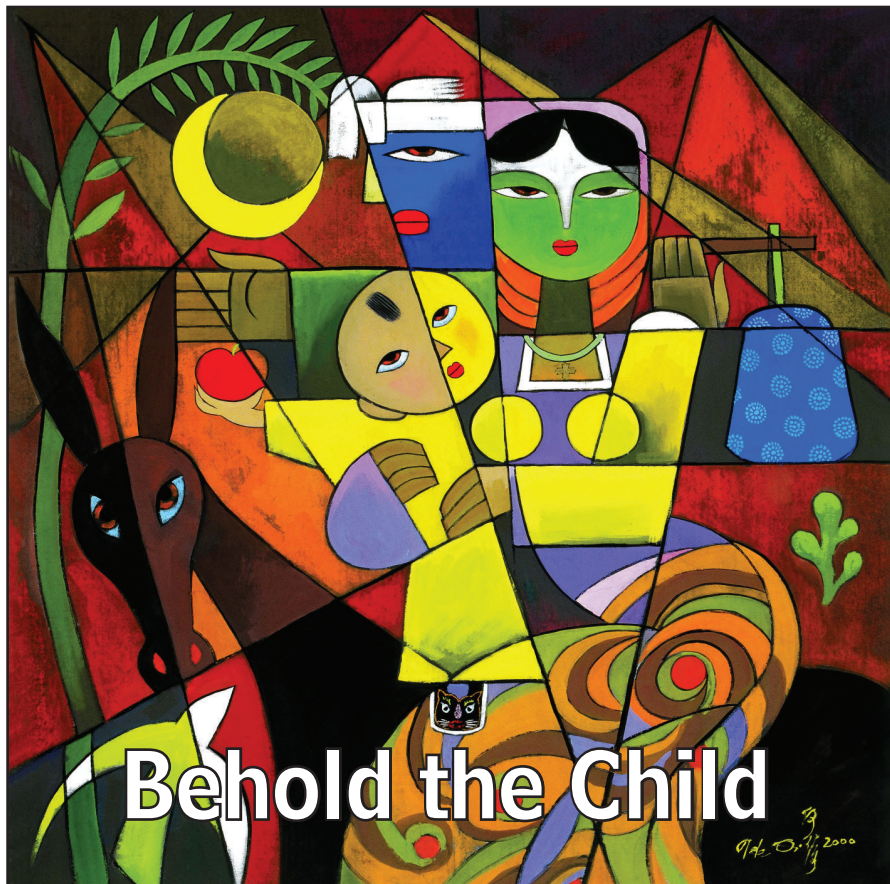
But babies grow up, and so did Jesus. From youth to adulthood he progressed, and as he grew in wisdom and stature he left behind childish ways. Indeed, he asserted his adult prerogatives regularly: by distancing himself from his parents in the temple, making a whip and driving out moneychangers, excoriating the religious leaders of his day, taking charge and raising the dead when the time was right. Behold Christ the man.

Does that mean his childhood was left behind as a mere stepping stone for the serious adult business of the redemption of the world? No. If we believe that Jesus is the revelation of the Father, then he must be so at every stage of his life, and we have good reason to think that the first years of Christ's life occupy a privileged place in our interpretation of the rest of the Gospel story.

This may seem like a counterintuitive claim: How can Christ's childhood, which is not even mentioned in the gospels of Mark and John, hold such theological weight? But the fact is that Christ repeatedly privileges childhood as the defining mark of redeemed – and thus true – humanity: “Un-

less you become like a child, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:3); “To such as these belongs the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 19:14). The gospels clearly teach that Christ came to make us children again. And that means we cannot understand the Incarnation properly if we miss that Christ the man never ceased to be Christ the child.

Consider the neediness of a child. Throughout Christ's entire adult ministry we see that he retains this disposition as a daily reality: he depends on the financial contributions of the women who travel with him (Luke 8:1–3); he has no place to lay his head (Matthew 8:20); indeed, there is no pillow even for his final sleep, and had it not been for the tomb donated by Joseph of Arimathea, Christ would have been buried in a criminals' pit. How similar all of this is to Jesus' infancy, when a humble stable proved to be his first home. And just as he was swaddled as a baby by his mother Mary, so he would be



swaddled by her after his death.

What of the Passion itself, in which Christ was led, like a child, where he “wouldst not” (John 21:18)? In every moment of his Passion he exhibited the vulnerability of childhood. He pleaded with his Father before his death, asking not to die while freely submitting to the Spirit's illumination of God's will. In his confrontation with Pilate, he refused to

*Continued on page 2*

## Behold the Child

*Continued from page 1*

claim his rightful throne in the manner of the kings of this world, and was instead robed in scorn and crowned with thorns. In the end, he returned to the nakedness of his first days. Behold Christ the child.

Our Lord is truly meek and mild – and hidden like so many children who go unnoticed by us. His most obscure birth would be matched by an equally shrouded rebirth, his barely noted resurrection. Christ remains the invisible child in his ascended reign, concealed in the church's sacraments and awaiting our response to his grace.

It should therefore come as no surprise that when we seek to encounter Christ today, we find him chiefly in the needy and helpless of this world. The Christ we meet in the vulnerable is the child Christ and none other. The hungry, the thirsty, the homeless, prisoners, refugees, the sick, and, of course, children themselves – all these carry in their bodies the vulnerability and dependency that never leave us, the openness to wounds and to love that is the privilege and risk of the child.

Children may appear weak, helpless, needy, but they are not quiet: they demand the love that rightly belongs to them, the care, the affection, the embrace that will satisfy their small but capacious hearts. This cry of the Christ child is the weakness of God that St. Paul speaks of, and we are reminded of it every day by all the sorrows and disasters that befall us without heaven's interference. Some of these take place on the world stage, others in the smaller theaters of our own communities: spouses divorcing, children abused and neglected, jobs lost, friends suffering from chronic illnesses that suffuse every conscious moment with pain – all these will not be overcome by the strong God, the God who storms in and brings justice to the brokenhearted in one fell swoop. I want my God to make bread from these stones, these stumbling blocks placed everywhere in life's path. And yet my prayers for myself and for those I love rarely effect the visible change I desire. To claim God's weakness is ultimately to own the inefficiency of a child in God's providential ways.

Yet children can also break our hearts. And when our hearts break, the hardened soil is prepared to receive the good news of ultimately victorious love, which the Sower casts far and wide. If we come near to the suffering Christ child in our midst, if we pick him up and hold him, he will water our hearts with his tears; up will grow the fruits of faith, hope, and love. And if we, as the Christmas hymn invites us, "come to own him" this season, he will come to own us too, and we will know his strength—the strength of a child who grasps us by the neck and will not let us go.

*By Roberto J. De La Noval, a doctoral candidate in theology at the University of Notre Dame. First published in the December 2019 issue of Commonweal Magazine. Front page art "Escape into Egypt," mixed media by He Qi,*

## The Christmas Season

### FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Saturday, December 28, 2019, MASS AT 4 P.M.

Sunday, December 29, 2019, MASS

AT 8:30 A.M. AND 11:15 A.M.

### NEW YEAR'S EVE & DAY

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

Tuesday, December 31, 2019 at 4 p.m.

Wednesday, January 1, 2020, MASS AT 10 A.M.

### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 4, 2020, MASS AT 4 P.M.

Sunday, January 5, 2020, MASS

AT 8:30 A.M. AND 11:15 A.M.

### THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

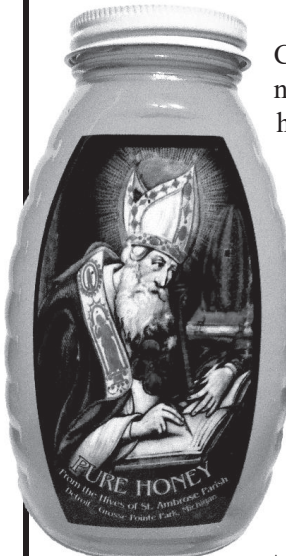
Saturday, January 11, 2020,

MASS AT 4 P.M. - CONFIRMATIONS

Sunday, January 12, 2020, MASS

AT 8:30 A.M. AND 11:15 A.M.

## Honey from Our Hives



After several seasons of Colony Collapse which left us with no honey to harvest, the 2019 hives here at St. Ambrose have been processed and their honey packaged for sale. As it was, we lost three out of four of our hives due to a hornet invasion. We've left a surplus of honey for the bees in the last remaining hive to winter-over. There is a *limited* number of jars that we can offer. The price is \$50 per jar, and purchase is restricted to *two per customer*. This is a unique gift, one that literally is a "taste of St. Ambrose," since honey, like wine, takes on the character of the place where it is produced.

Our honey jar comes with Ambrose featured on it, the patron saint of bees and beekeepers. These one-pound jars come gift-boxed and are now on sale through our office. Call (313) 822-2814, or email [stambrose@comast.net](mailto:stambrose@comast.net).



# All Things Considered

Last week in this column, I wrote that a gift is not a true gift unless it is given from a person's sustenance. I referred back to our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary where we gave away the Sunday's 11:15 collection to the Eastside Emergency Shelter.

I reasoned that it was time to revisit that idea from our past. Since the shelter is no longer active, accordingly half of last week's 11:15 collection will be shared with Maryknoll and the Bolivian mission staffed by one of our parishioners, **Joe Loney** – and the other half will go to assist the Capuchin Community Services in Milwaukee where **Fr. Robert Wotypka**, our former Deacon intern, is trying to expand their outreach.

The 11:15 collection last week was \$2,875.60. We'll bump that up to an even \$3,000 and split it between Maryknoll and the Capuchins. "Cast your bread upon the waters and it will return to you." Ecclesiastes 1:11.

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**Unleashing the Gospel** is a whole new type of Evangelization for our Archdiocese of Detroit. At the core of this initiative, which follows the 2016 Synod, is the need to make the message of Salvation readily accessible and available to a culture that often seems to have forgotten Jesus. It's a missionary movement of the Holy Spirit that seeks to invite people to consider how God might be active in our age.

We received an invitation from **Archbishop Vigneron** to be in the second and upcoming phase of Unleashing the Gospel. This will be broken up into three Phases:

**Phase 1: Preparation** (April – July of 2020) – In this phase we grow our parish leadership, strengthen our intercessory prayer and assess how we can best create a plan.

**Phase 2: Creation** (August – October 2020) – In this phase, the Archdiocese will help us craft a strategic missionary plan that fits our future.

**Phase 3: Implementation** (November 2020 and beyond) – In this phase, the Archdiocese, myself and our leadership team will begin implementing our plan to Unleash the Gospel. We will also be assigned a representative from Community Counseling Service to assist us in fundraising that will be a part of this program.

All of this should make for a challenging and very exciting 2020.

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A Lifeway study on Christmas church attendance indicated that 47% of all Americans would attend "Christmas week services," whether it's Christmas Eve, Christmas or some other special program. That's amazing since the study also showed that the average non holiday attendance is around 20%.

The survey also learned that 2% of atheists, 9% agnostics and 22% who claim a non-Christian religion attend church at Christmas. That's big time church attendance for people who wouldn't typically walk in the door.

Soon we will be gathering with family and friends for Christmas Mass. And, as usual, there will be a mixed group made up of those who get to Mass regularly and those who do not. Your experience of Christmas Mass is going to be different depending on your place in the mix. For regular Mass-goers, it will seem homey and routine, and a nod of recognition to them is going to be enough.

But those others who only find their way to church on Christmas will carry with them the reasons they usually do not make it to Mass. So they are going to need more than a nod.

Their experience will hinge on feeling welcomed or not. People return to churches because they are welcomed, not because the church got everything else right.

Both regular Mass-goers and Christmas Catholics can make this work better. Jesuit Father Jack Bentz writing for America magazine writes:

*"If you are a Christmas Catholic, plan to arrive with an open mind. And do it for your own sake. Not for your mother or your boyfriend – but for you. Yes, the Church is a mess, but sitting in judgment will only make your Christmas grimmer and rob you of joy. I know how easy it is to see what is wrong with the Church; there is always plenty to choose from. But the truth is, the ministers, the building, the music, the priest and the preaching are not specifically designed to disappoint you. And if you are reeling from the abuse crisis and the hundred other things the Catholic Church is doing wrong, I get you. But instead of being judge and jury for the entire Catholic Church, go ahead and choose to see how God wants to love you through this particular parish on this specific night."*

*And for those who call the particular parish home, Christmas is the chance to welcome the stranger. And who knows, the welcome you extend to the infrequent Mass-goer might be what brings that person into community. And next year you both will be welcoming a new stranger together."*

If you would like to engage more with St. Ambrose please visit our website at [stambrosechurch.net](http://stambrosechurch.net). Or if you want to join the ongoing conversation at St. Ambrose please engage with us on Facebook at [facebook.com/stambroseparish](https://www.facebook.com/stambroseparish).

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As we come upon the last days of the calendar year, it means we are also coming up to the end of a fiscal tax period. **If you intend to make an end-of-the-year gift to the parish, you'll need to date it before January 1<sup>st</sup> 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. God bless you and your family this Christmas!

## Pregnancy Aid

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 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

## 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.

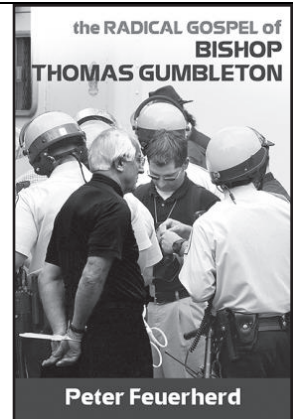
Gumbleton is one of the rare contemporary Catholics for whom the appellation "prophet" may actually apply in all of its best meanings. He is a remarkable example of fidelity who has managed to maintain integrity while serving the institution at the leadership level. He's paid more than a small price 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 12<sup>th</sup>, 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.



## RCIA: 2019 -2020

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

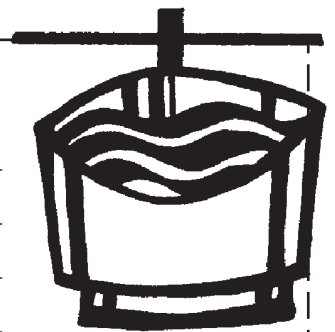
HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith.
- ☐ I would like to prepare for Baptism.
- ☐ I would like to join the Catholic Church/Community.
- ☐ I would like to complete my initiation into the Catholic Church by celebrating my Confirmation and Holy Communion.
- ☐ I would like to return to the Church and to a more active practice of my faith.
- ☐ I would like to learn more about becoming a sponsor for a new Catholic.
- ☐ I would be willing to help with the details of this year's R.C.I.A. program
- ☐ Call me for my other needs, requests, questions, etc.

Return this to the Parish Rectory or in the Sunday Collection basket.



## Faith Formation Station

*"May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope;  
the spirit of Christmas which is peace; the heart of Christmas which is love."*

— Ada V. Hendriks

As you prepare to celebrate Christmas with your family, I offer you a summary of an article I really enjoy and reread each year to remind me of how my family fits in the stable at Christmas: "Your Family May Be Holier than You Think!" by Lorene Hanley Duquin.

At Christmastime we see images of the Holy Family on lawns, on greeting cards, and in our homes. Our kids reenact the story of the Holy Family in pageants. We sing Christmas carols that tell of the story of the angels, shepherds, a manger, and a star. We may even hear in homilies how we are called to imitate the Holy Family.

If you're thinking that your family could never compare with the holiness of the Holy Family, maybe it's time to take a closer look at what holiness really means!

Start by putting yourself in Mary and Joseph's situation. The manger scene may look peaceful and serene 2,000 years after the birth of Jesus. But think for a moment how difficult it must have been for Mary to give birth in an animal shelter. Think about how helpless Joseph must have felt. Did he remember how he almost divorced Mary? Was he worried about how he was going to take care of this child conceived by the Holy Spirit?

When we look beneath the serenity of the Nativity scene, we see tensions, discomfort, and fear. They are the same kind of struggles that modern-day families face. Spouses misunderstand one another. We have to face the uncertainty of the future. We have problems to overcome. We have decisions to make. We don't always have the comforts we would like.

Holiness is not just about persevering through troubling times, however. We know our families are holy when we recognize the same compassion, commitment, courage, sacrifice, and joy that Mary and Joseph experienced. We find holiness in the ordinary experiences of our lives. When we teach a child a new skill, when we discipline a child with love, when we keep our children safe and healthy, we are living our lives in the same way that the Holy Family lived.

The essence of what we see in the lives of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is a relationship of love – loving God and loving each other. When we pray together as a family, when we forgive or seek forgiveness, when we treat others with compassion, when we help people in need, we are holy because we are living our lives with love.

### REMINDERS:

- **Christmas Eve Children's Liturgy:** It is a cherished custom at St. Ambrose Church to re-enact the Christmas Gospel story at the 4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Liturgy. Children (4 years old and above) and teens are invited to participate – no experience necessary and costumes are provided. Rehearsal is today, December 22, 2019 after the 11:15 a.m. Mass. A parent must accompany their child/ren for this one and only rehearsal. The roles of Mary and Joseph are played each year by students preparing for First Eucharist.
- **Religious Education Classes are on Christmas break.** But that does not mean that we are on "break" from the Holy Eucharist. Please attend Mass on these upcoming great feast days with your family either here or wherever you travel. Resume January 5, 2020. Your membership in the Catholic Church gives you privileges to worship with any Catholic Community world wide. While on your vacation or traveling, websites like [masstimes.org](http://masstimes.org) and [thecatholicdirectory.com](http://thecatholicdirectory.com) make it easy to find a mass wherever you are.
- **Epiphany:** All our students, their families and our teachers are invited to attend the 11:15 a.m. liturgy together after their classroom sessions for the Feast of the Epiphany, Sunday January 5<sup>th</sup>. This special Children's Liturgy will help us enjoy "Little Christmas".

Kelly Anne Woolums

## 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](mailto:stambrose@comcast.net)

**Religious Education:** (313) 332-5633

**Pastoral Ministry:** (313) 332-5631

**Ark Scheduling:** (313) 822-2814

**Parish Website:** [stambrosechurch.net](http://stambrosechurch.net)

## Our Dead

A funeral liturgy was celebrated by Fr. Pelc on Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> for **John Opie**, age 80.

John was born and raised in Detroit and attended Catholic High Schools. He went on to earn a degree in Chemical Engineering from Michigan Tech and an MBA from Wayne State.

He was employed by General Motors and took an early retirement. He then went on to work at other automotive paint companies. Along the way, there is at least one patent with his name on it. John enjoyed skiing and golf, and for a while held season tickets for the Red Wings,

John was predeceased by his wives, Carol and Elizabeth and his sister, Mary Kay and brother Chuck.

He is survived by his children, Renee, Julia, and Anne. He will be missed by his three grandchildren and the rest of his family and friends. Please keep John and his family in your prayers.



## Liturgy Schedule for the Coming Week

### Monday, December 23

11:00 a.m. - Funeral - Mary Howard

### Tuesday, December 24

4:00 p.m. - Children's Liturgy

11:30 p.m. - Christmas Concert

### Wednesday, December 25

#### *The Nativity of Our Lord*

12:00 a.m. - Midnight Mass

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

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

### Thursday, December 26

#### *St. Stephen, the first martyr*

Office closed - no services

### Friday, December 27

#### *St. John, apostle and evangelist*

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Thomas & Josepha Pelc

### Saturday, December 28

#### *The Holy Innocents*

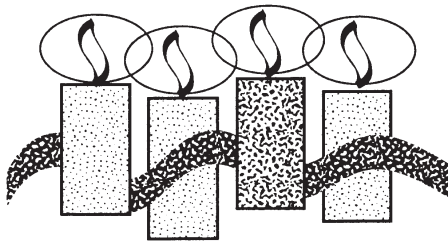
4:00 p.m. - Mass - For All People

### Sunday, December 29

#### *Feast of the Holy Family*

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

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



## Scriptures for the 4<sup>th</sup> Week in Advent & Christmas

### Monday, December 23

- Mal 3: 1-4, 23-24
- Ps 25: 4bc-5ab, 8-10, 14
- Lk 1: 57-66

### Tuesday, December 24

- Is 62: 1-5
- Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25
- Mt 1: 1-25 or 1: 18-25

### Wednesday, December 25

- Is 52: 7-10
- Heb 1: 1-6
- Jn 1: 1-18 or 1: 1-5, 9-14

### Thursday, December 26

- Acts 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59
- Ps 31: 3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17
- Mt 10: 17-22

### Friday, December 27

- 1 Jn 1: 1-4
- Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12
- Jn 20: 1a, 2-8

### Saturday, December 28

- 1 Jn 5: 2: 2
- Ps 124: 2-5, 7c-8
- Mt 2: 13-18

### Sunday, December 29

- Sir 3: 2-6, 12-14
- Col 3: 12-21 or 3: 12-17
- Mt 2: 13-15, 19=23

## *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph* *December 28<sup>th</sup> and December 29<sup>nd</sup>*

**4:00 p.m. - Celebrant:** Bp Gumbleton **Lector:** Mary Urbanski  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Maria Cox- & Adam Borkowski, Della Cimini  
**Altar Server:** Jack Hern

**8:30 a.m. - Sunday - Celebrant:** Bp Quinn **Lector:** Colleen Jogan  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Colleen Drummond, Joan Jackson, Maggie Jackson,  
Bob Jogan, Steve Linne, Joellyn Valgoi  
**Altar Servers:** Erica, Corey, & Carrigan McGraw

**11:15 a.m. - Celebrant:** Fr. Pelc **Lector:** Bob Gatzke  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Doris Fleming, Colleen Gatzke, Pat & Michael Mocer, Cristina & Darryl Swiatkowski, Cynthia Warner  
**Altar Server:** Alyssa Flores

## Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

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

### *On Sunday, December 15, 2019*

in envelopes we received ..... \$6,527.00  
in the loose collection ..... \$447.00  
in electronic donations ..... \$2,936.00  
for a total of..... \$9,910.00

Under budget for the week..... **\$190.00**

Number of envelopes mailed ..... 900

Number of envelopes used ..... 125

## Stewardship Reflection

*When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." (Matthew 1:24)*

Putting our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

## 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.

## Joyful Disciples

We are inviting our parishioners and friends to become involved in one or both of these outreach programs.

- 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.

## Vocation

If you think God is calling you to be a priest visit our website at [detroitpriest.com](http://detroitpriest.com) or contact Fr. Tim Birney, Director of Vocations at [birney.tim@aod.org](mailto:birney.tim@aod.org), (313) 237-5875.

## Electronic Donations

The landscape of giving is changing. We are rapidly moving away from a cash-carrying, check-writing society. Society is headed in a digital direction. The percentage of people who want to retain the giving status of an envelope is dwindling. Studies show that less than 15% of churchgoers nationwide wanted paper envelopes. 68% wanted digital options.

St. Ambrose Parish is equipped to make electronic transfers from your checking account or credit card on our website. Christian Financial Credit Union brings parishioners and friends the ability to make an electronic contribution to St. Ambrose on a regular or a one-time basis. This is especially helpful to us when you go away for a weekend, or go on vacation.

Your checking account or credit card may be used to make a single donation; or you may set up automatic weekly, monthly or quarterly contributions on a schedule.

Access the Christian Financial online giving service by logging onto our website at [stambrosechurch.net](http://stambrosechurch.net) and then click on “Donate/Make Payment.”

Givelify can be used for one-time contributions or for regular parochial support. Download the app from the Apple Store or Google Play, locate St. Ambrose, then click on “amount”. Tap a “campaign” and then “give now.”

With both Christian Financial and Givelify, you can:

- Set up your own contribution, including recurring ones.
- Change your contribution at any time.
- Keep your giving consistent and ease the cash-flow problems of the parish.
- Use your preferred credit or debit card.
- No need to carry cash or write a check.
- Eliminate the need to make up for missed contributions.

If you still like having a paper envelope to have something to drop into the basket during offertory time, those can still be mailed to you. If you have difficulties in setting up an electronic giving account, give us a call at (313) 822-2814 or drop us a message at [stambrose@comcast.net](mailto:stambrose@comcast.net).

# CIVILIZE IT



## DIGNITY BEYOND THE DEBATE

A divided country. Fights at the dinner table. Political vitriol. What does it mean to love our neighbors in the midst of such a climate?

As Catholics, we have a long tradition of engagement in the political process as a means of putting our faith into action. We are called to bring the best of ourselves and our faith to the public square – and yet today, many shy away from such involvement because our national and local conversations are filled with vitriol and harsh language, often directed at people themselves.

When personal attacks replace honest debate, no one wins. This kind of attack, no matter the reason, only serves to further divide our communities. As Catholics, we must model a better way. We invite you to join the Civilize It campaign by taking the pledge below as a way to promote civility, love our neighbors, and build community.

**Civilize It** is about making room in your heart for those with whom you disagree. We are called to recognize that each one of us is a beloved child of God and to respond in love to that reality. Civilize It is a non-partisan call to focus on the dignity of all people, even when we disagree, and to put faith in action by bearing witness to a better way forward.

Take the pledge at [wearesaltandlight.org/civilize-it](http://wearesaltandlight.org/civilize-it) as an individual, family, or community. Anyone and everyone can commit together to honoring human dignity through civil conversation.

### I PLEDGE . . .

1. **CIVILITY:** *To recognize the human dignity of those with whom I disagree, treat others with respect, and rise above attacks when directed at me.*
2. **CLARITY:** *To root my political viewpoints in the Gospel and a well-formed conscience, which involves prayer, conversation, study and listening. I will stand up for my convictions and speak out when I witness language that disparages others' dignity, while also listening and seeking to understand others' experiences.*
3. **COMPASSION:** *To encounter others with a tone and posture which affirms that I honor the dignity of others and invites others to do the same. I will presume others' best intentions and listen to their stories with empathy. I will strive to understand before seeking to be understood.*

After you take the pledge, share the word on your socials using #CivilizeIt2020! Explore the Civilize It website ([wearesaltandlight.org/civilize-it](http://wearesaltandlight.org/civilize-it)) for additional resources to help you promote civility.