

Helping people bear their sorrows

Like so many Catholics and Christians each year, I look forward to the Resurrection of Easter and the promise of hope and new life that it brings. With all that has happened in these past weeks as our nation and world battle the covid-19 pandemic, I am finding great inspiration contemplating Mary at the foot of the cross, watching her child suffering and yet having the faith to face the “sword that pierced her heart” Luke 2:34-35 with such courage and grace.

Mary’s strength reminds us that the Lord’s love for us – and the joy and care we show each other – always triumphs over fear and darkness.

Perhaps I am thinking about Mary because there are so many people I encounter at Catholic Charities bearing heavy crosses: parents whose hearts have been pierced by the death of a child through suicide or gun violence; mothers and children fleeing abusive relationships; veterans coping with traumatic combat experiences; seniors managing serious health issues and the effects of aging; teens seeking pathways out of gang violence; and now, record numbers of people who need help to cope with the social isolation, fear, grief, lost jobs and industry contraction brought on by covid-19.

Each day though she had tremendous personal strength, we know that Mary did not suffer alone at the cross. Mary of Clopas, Mary Magdalene, her sister and maybe others were there with her, sharing her sorrow. They stood with her in silent solidarity, helping her face one of the most difficult moments in her life.



In the same way, and with an army of dedicated staff and volunteers, Catholic Charities tries to be there in a very personal and compassionate way for each person who seeks our help. We stand in solidarity with them as they face these unprecedented times and great personal life challenges.

Over the years, I have felt very blessed to have witnessed first-hand moments when I could visibly sense relief and comfort in people simply by them coming to Catholic Charities. Maybe this sense of peace comes because many of our service locations are filled with years of faithful prayer said by religious women and men over the years.

Or perhaps people – no matter what their personal religious affiliation – sense our own faith tradition that compels us to treat every person with the utmost dignity and respect. To be sure, there is a divine presence at work in Catholic Charities, bringing peace, comfort and a renewed sense of hope.

We need this hope and comfort now more than ever. The love the Lord has instilled in us for one another has spurred creativity in maintaining our close, caring relationships even as we accommodate an appropriate social distance, and generated a spirit of neighborly compassion that will help us endure the long-term impact of this chapter in history.

Like the unprecedented hardships so many are currently facing, Mary’s life was not easy. Yet, she had faith in

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Liturgical Directives for the Archdiocese of Detroit

These directives from Archbishop Vigneron were revised on May 1, 2020 and remain until further notice.

Public Mass continues to be suspended until further notice.

Churches may be kept open and available for private prayer and intercession, if pastors are able to keep them clean. Each pastor should determine the maximum number of people allowed in the church at any one time based on size, layout, ability to socially distance, and ability of the parish to clean the facility regularly.

Parish offices should remain closed and employees, as they are able, to work from home.

Weddings and Baptisms are permitted if certain criteria are met but require individual permission of each instance, with the exception of item 3 below.

1. For weddings, the officiant should complete the form emailed to the priest to request permission.

2. For baptisms, the presider should complete the form emailed to the priest to request permission.

3. Where there is a danger of death, the individual should be baptized and (if it is a priest baptizing) confirmed. Funerals are permitted under the following conditions:

In a Parish Church: A Funeral Mass or Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass may be celebrated with no more than 10 people present.

1. This number should be strictly enforced by the pastor, with the assistance of the funeral director. If this small number cannot be adhered to, a priest should offer Funeral Masses without a congregation available to the family via livestream.

2. All the faithful present should wear masks.

3. Holy Communion is not to be distributed to the faithful during Funeral Masses. It is fitting to lead the faithful in a Prayer of Spiritual Communion at that time.

4. Livestreaming of funerals is encouraged to allow more than the small number present to participate.

At a Catholic Cemetery: A Funeral Mass or Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass may be celebrated at a Catholic cemetery chapel or graveside.

1. Clergy should follow and help enforce the number restrictions, health and safety guidelines, and proper social distancing practices of the cemetery.

2. Many Catholic cemeteries have the capability for live-stream funerals from the cemetery chapel.

3. Holy Communion is not to be distributed to the faithful during Funeral Masses. It is fitting to lead the faithful in a Prayer of Spiritual Communion at that time.

At Any Cemetery: Committal services may continue to be celebrated at any proper burial place pursuant to the guidelines of the cemetery.

Priests are to continue to celebrate Mass in private daily, remembering the efficacious nature of the Mass even without the presence of the faithful and to fulfill Mass intentions which have been allocated. Pastors are reminded of their obligation to offer the Sunday Mass for the people of the parish. Collective Mass intentions are permitted twice a week if the donors agree to such. If Mass intentions cannot be fulfilled in the near future, the intention (and the attached stipend) should be sent to priests at other entities.

Parishes are encouraged to livestream Masses when they are able.

1. A small number of the faithful is permitted to assist (liturgically or technologically) at the Mass. This number must remain less than 10, must be strictly enforced, and should only include those who are truly essential to support the livestreamed Mass.

2. Those assisting with the Mass should wear masks, except when their speaking/singing prevents it.

Confessions are to be heard at the discretion of the priest. Priests should be generous in offering this sacrament to those who might be in grave sin. They should also take precaution for the welfare of the faithful and their own welfare, while at the same time protecting the sacramental seal. This includes, as best they are able:

1. Proper social distancing as best you are able (six feet apart)

2. A well-ventilated area for hearing confessions (even outside of the Church)

3. The use of a mask by the penitent and confessor.

4. Consult the previous directive about Confession and General Absolution for more information.

Anointing of the Sick for those in need of the sacrament should be performed as the priest is able.

1. Be sure to sanitize the oil stock before and after each anointing. Do not contaminate the sacred oil.

2. You are also permitted to use a cotton ball, and not your thumb, to anoint the head. For each anointing, use a new cotton ball (or "Q-tips") and new oil on the cotton.

3 In the case of pastoral necessity, the hands do not need to be anointed.

Confirmations scheduled for the remainder of 2020 are suspended until further notice. Plans for their resumption will be examined at a later time.

Reception of RCIA Elect and Candidates for Full Communion in the Church will take place at a later date, hopefully in conjunction with Pentecost. If we are not able to celebrate their reception at that time, provisions will be made for them to be received on an individual basis at their parish church. These details – including information regarding scrutinies – will be forthcoming closer to Pentecost.

All Things Considered

Our Director of Religious Education, **Kelly Woolums**, has a wonderful column today about Mother's Day including a Spiritual Bouquet that can be given to mom – or anybody else in need of prayer. The old-school idea behind a Spiritual Bouquet is numerically indicate that the sender will undertake certain devotional acts on behalf of another person, as in honor of a special occasion or in memory of someone who has died. Why? Because people who are prayed for do better! Check out page seven of today's issue and read about an electronic version of a Spiritual Bouquet and the change prayer makes.

This brings me to a new campaign by the Archdiocese of Detroit to prayerfully assist people in need during the corona virus pandemic. To help people get the physical, mental, and spiritual support they need to get through this pandemic, a team of "missionaries" has launched a new spiritual outreach and support initiative. Please help them spread the word. Anyone who needs assistance can call 313-237-4646, text 'SOS' to 313-315-5758, or visit <http://calmingthestorm.org/>.



Our Covid-19 memorial ribbons began in mid-March honoring six souls. As of this week's writing 4,135 of our Michigan brothers and sisters have succumbed to the pandemic. I clearly misjudged just how devastating this epidemic would be. We've struggled to catch the ribbons up with that number. And with wholesalers closed, and Amazon tapped out, I came to the conclusion that we would just have to leave the project incomplete. I talk with **Mike Heckman** (who has been keeping this project going) about ending it. The next day, **Gloria Sanders**, a friend of the family who lives in Livonia called to say that she had "some ribbon" to donate to the memorial project.

"Some" is a relative term – the photo on this page shows the size of just one of 4 industrial sized bolts of ribbon she gave us. In case you're wondering, Gloria had two kids in Catholic High Schools – Ladywood and Catholic Central – whole school colors just happened to be "blue". What we received is the remnants of a lot of projects and fund-raisers.

Remember that each piece of blue ribbon represents a cherished person who was a vital and loved member of a Michigan family just days ago. It's visually overwhelming to see how these deaths look when you see them all together.

Gabriella Patti did a nice piece for The Detroit Catholic website. Check it out at <https://detroitcatholic.com/news/gabriella-patti/st-ambrose-ties-ribbons-to-trees-to-memorialize-3-567-michigan-victims-of-covid-19>



Today's front page was cribbed from the Easter edition of the *Chicago Catholic* Newspaper. The columnist is the director of Catholic Charities in that Archdiocese. But the location is irrelevant. You will find great examples of Catholic Charities in just about every diocese or archdiocese in the country.

Our Catholic Charities just launched a new program to do phone check-ins with vulnerable seniors throughout the Archdiocese who are sheltering in their homes. They provide needed human interaction while we also work to provide whatever food, medication or additional supplies the person may need. To learn more about this program or to sign up for it contact Nikki Harvey at harveyh@ccsem.org.



Mike Heckman holding the mammoth bolt of ribbon for our memorial project

All Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan behavioral health locations are offering telehealth for mental health and substance abuse treatment. You are able to stay home and receive face-to-face counseling through your mobile device, tablet or computer. Their clinical staff and psychiatrists are able to meet your mental health needs during this unsettling time. If you sense a need for a professional therapist to talk to, don't hesitate to call to schedule your appointment. You can find all phone numbers for Catholic Charities Behavioral Health site nearest you at <https://ccsem.org/locations/>



See you for Sunday mass at facebook.com/stambroseparish or [stambroselive](https://youtube.com/stambroselive) on youtube. stambroselive.net



Spend a Few Moments of Prayer In Front of the Blessed Sacrament

The church will be open from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. every Sunday during the pandemic for private prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

In compliance with Governor Whitmer's directives, there can be no more than 10 people in the building at a time. While inside, maintain at least six feet between you and other people. We ask that you please sanitize the pew area where you sat after you have finished your prayer. Supplies for this will be provided.

Faith Formation Station

"In dangers, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Let not her name depart from your lips, never suffer it to leave your heart. And that you may obtain the assistance of her prayer, neglect not to walk in her footsteps.

With her for guide, you shall never go astray; while invoking her, you shall never lose heart; so long as she is in your mind, you are safe from deception; while she holds your hand, you cannot fall; under her protection you have nothing to fear; if she walks before you, you shall not grow weary; if she shows you favor, you shall reach the goal."

—Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, Father and Doctor of the Church

May is a month dedicated to Mary in a special way. It is customary to honor Mary with special devotions during the course of this month. On Mother's Day, we celebrate not only our own mothers and the special women in our lives, we Catholics remember Mary, the mother of all humankind.

At the end of our faith formation program year, our students participate in a crowning of a statue of Mary. Even though we won't be able to gather together for this ceremony this year, I invite families and parishioners to honor Mary with their own special May Crowning or other celebrations at home.

Take time as a family during the rest of May to honor Mary. You might add the Hail Mary, the Rosary, and other prayers and novenas dedicated to Mary to your prayer practice for the month. A spiritual bouquet activity is included in this bulletin. Consider erecting a prayer table in your own home – making your home a place where your family can echo the customs and traditions of the Church in your home. Place a statue, photo, or some other representation of Mary on your prayer table this month and spend time with God at your prayer table. Offer your spiritual bouquet and flowers to honor Mary. You just might find that your prayer table might bring you together in faith and become a new family tradition. Share photos of your family honoring Mary on the St. Ambrose Facebook page.

GENERAL PROGRAM NOTES:

As we continue to deal with a unique and uncertain situation, know of our continued prayers for you and your family. Know that your child/ren's catechists have been missing them and praying for your families as well. I have been busy attending webinars and meetings with the AOD and the other directors of faith formation in our SERF vicariate as we are working collaboratively on ideas for virtual Vacation Bible School and other programming as well as planning for the upcoming faith formation year.

Please check the St. Ambrose parish website under Religious Education for program updates and additional resources as they become available. An end of the year letter went out to families this week; check your inboxes and mailboxes. Feel free to email me if you have any questions, concerns, or are looking for specific resources for your children.

FIRST EUCHARIST:

The AOD Office of Catechesis hosted a webinar to assist program leaders on how to help parents prepare their children at home for the reception of First Eucharist. They just put together a resource list and video to send out to all First Eucharist families in the AOD. An email with links to this programming was mailed to all First Eucharist families this week and will be posted on the parish website as well. Feel free to pass this information along to grandparents and other family members. You do not need to be a family preparing for First Eucharist to learn from and enjoy this programming.

Kelly Woolums

My Spiritual Bouquet

A gift of prayer for:

The following are offered up for you and your intentions

Decades of the Rosary

Holy Communion

Visits to the Blessed Sacrament

Novenas/Litanies

Stations of the Cross

Remembrance at Mass

Acts of Penance

Other:



From:

Spiritual Bouquets are prayers, devotional acts, or good deeds offered for someone else that become like flowers gathered together in a bouquet.

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

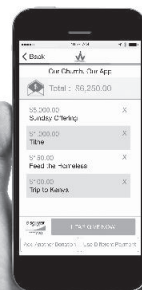
Pastoral Ministry: (313) 332-5631

Ark Scheduling: (313) 822-2814

Parish Website: stambrosechurch.net

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Helping people carry their sorrows

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her suffering in the greater purpose of her Son – and she had support from those around her.

So, during this Easter season, I will be praying for all those suffering from, or grieving a loss from covid 19 and thanking God for the opportunity Catholics have to help people bear the many crosses of these challenging times, shining the light and hope of the Resurrection in the darkest of places.

By Donahue-Coia, CEO of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Although this article was written with a specific Archdiocese in mind, it is applicable to all the many different outreaches of Catholics/Christians world wide.

Liturgy Schedule for the Coming Week

May 11

Easter Weekday

May 12

*Sts. Nereus & Achilleus, martyrs &
St. Pancras, martyr*

May 13

Our Lady of Fatima

May 14

St. Matthias, apostle

May 15

St. Isidore

May 16

Easter Weekday

May 17

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

•Web Mass broadcast of our Sunday Mass from St. Ambrose will begin at 8:00 and will be accessible throughout the day.

Spending Spotlight

The Coronavirus has driven up the cost of janitorial supplies, particularly those items need to sanitize things. We frequently clean and disinfect surfaces and gathering spots all around our facilities. All pews and doors are sanitized before and after our Sunday prayer time. We spent \$180.00 for supplies in March of 2019. The cost of those janitorial supplies in March 2020 was \$346.73

Scriptures for the Fifth Week of Easter

May 11

Acts 14: 5-18

Ps 115: 1-4, 15-16

Jn 14: 21-26

May 12

Acts 14: 19-28

Ps 149: 10-13b, 21

Jn 14: 27-31a

May 13

Acts 15: 1-6

Ps 122: 1-5

Jn 15: 1-8

May 14

Acts 1: 15-17, 20-26

Ps 113: 1-8

Jn 15: 9-17

May 15

Acts 15: 22-31

Ps 57: 8-12

Jn 15: 12-17

May 16

Acts 16: 1-10

Ps 100: 1b-2, 3, 5

Jn 15: 18-21

May 17

Acts 8: 5-8, 14-17

Ps 66: 1-7, 16, 21

1 Pt 3: 15-18

Jn 14: 15-21

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

In cooperation with our Archbishop's order, and in compliance with our Governor's ban on social gatherings, our Sunday mass for the foreseeable future will be celebrated and offered on line – but not open to a congregation.

Masses from St. Ambrose Parish for the Sundays of Easter will be broadcast on our Facebook page and through our website starting at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Our church building will be open for private prayer (no more than 10 persons at a time) on Sundays from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Upon leaving, please sanitize the space that you have occupied.

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

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

On Sunday, May 3, 2020

in envelopes we received \$6,290.00

in the loose collection 0

in electronic donations \$6,076.00

for a total of..... \$12,366.00

Over budget for the week..... \$2,266.00

Number of envelopes mailed 782

Number of envelopes used 40

52 Sundays

52 Sundays offers simple and insightful ways for your family to spend time together each Sunday learning more about the Catholic faith and having fun while you're at it. Materials are available for download online or you may sign up to receive the weekly email at www.52sundays.com/

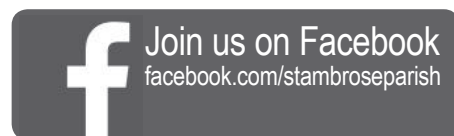
The Cry of the Poor

Bad times are even worse for the poor and jobless. You need to know that our St. Vincent dePaul Society here at St. Ambrose continues to serve the needy in this part of town.

Even though they do not make home visits during this period of pandemic, they continue provide our neighbors in need with energy and rent assistance as well as vouchers for food and cleaning supplies. When the Covid-19 threat subsides, they expect to see a huge surge in requests for financial assistance.

If you've been using your quarantine time to do some cleaning and divesting, please know that the St. Vincent de Paul stores are closed and are unable to take donated goods at this time.

For now, our SVdP welcomes financial donations. Masks and supplies for sanitation can also be used. Please send checks made out to St. Ambrose St. Vincent de Paul Conference and mail them to the Parish Office. Drop any other supplies at the rectory front door, in a marked box or bag.



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, Jerry Hansen, Jackie Walkowski, Kristen Kingzett, Denise DiBiancha, Valerie Dryden, Angela Stack, Maria Simcina, Fr. Norm Thomas, Tony Macksoud, Albina Checki, the Capuchin friars under quarantine and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with COVID-19.



I tweeted about my mother's covid-19 diagnosis — and then the spiritual floodgates opened

Much is written about the destructive effects of social media. There are studies showing that platforms such as Twitter are eroding our intelligence, corroding our democracy, fueling our anxiety, harming our mental health and making us miserable. But during today's pandemic, social media has also been an unprecedented source of comfort for many who are struggling with the horrific impact of this pathogen. I know, because I have experienced those comforts firsthand.

My mother has covid-19 and is in a New York City hospital fighting for her life. I usually keep my private life private, but when we learned she had taken a turn for the worse, my wife told me I should ask for prayers on Twitter. At first, I hesitated. I tend to tweet about politics and not share much private information. But desperate times call for desperate measures. So, I typed "My 91-year-old mom is in the hospital in New York with covid-19. I'd be grateful for your prayers for her" and hit "send."

Almost immediately, the spiritual floodgates opened, as my feed filled with messages of empathy, love and compassion. Many shared their own stories. "Sorry to hear. Pulling for her. My father with Parkinson's disease is on a ventilator with COVID too," wrote one. Kindness poured in from supporters and antagonists alike. One person wrote: "Mr. Thiessen, I despise your political takes, I pray with every fiber of my being your mom is ok. God bless sir. I truly hope she pulls through." That touched me more than words can say. A tiny fraction did write nasty tweets saying, in effect, that I was getting what I deserved for my political views. But here's what's amazing: Others pounced on them and shut them down. ("What is wrong with you?" was a typical reply.)

I received more praying hands emoji than I can count from people of many faiths. Many sent Bible verses, prayers of the saints and promises to light candles. Others who do not share my faith still sent "healing thoughts," "virtual hugs" and "good vibrations."

People with whom I'd sparred with over politics sent messages of support — a *New York Times* reporter I'd never met, an MSNBC anchor, a former Obama administration official, a Biden campaign adviser. So did colleagues from *The Post*, the American Enterprise Institute and Fox News,

as well as from my old days in the Senate and the George W. Bush administration. So did old college, high school and even grade-school friends, who shared reminiscences of my mom and how they remembered her as a fighter. A friend who is an opera singer promised to sing for her that night. A friend who had recovered from the virus offered to donate plasma. Two friends who had donated iPads to my mom's hospital helped set up a FaceTime chat with her grandkids.

As a teenager, my mother fought with the Polish underground during the 1944 Warsaw Uprising against the Nazis. Through social media, word of her illness traveled across the Atlantic. The Warsaw Uprising Museum tweeted: "A hero of the Warsaw Uprising. We are thinking of you and hoping for her speedy recovery!" Suddenly, Polish Twitter swung into action, as prayers poured in from the Polish diaspora.

One study found that including strangers in your social network can hurt self-esteem. Maybe so, but this week my family was enveloped in the compassionate embrace of countless strangers. I tried to "like" every reply but eventually gave up. There were just too many. According to Twitter's analytics, 2.6 million people saw my tweet and more than 254,000 engaged with it — reading, liking, responding or sharing it with others. There is no analytic to show how many stopped to pray, but if even a fraction did, then my family has been blessed beyond measure.

I believe in the power of prayer. When I worked in the Bush White House, my dear friend Monsignor Charles Pope gave a homily at the National Day of Prayer that has always stayed with me. "I've often thought that one of the joys of heaven will be that we'll be able to see what a difference our prayers made," he said that day. "I think in heaven we'll see that we changed world history by our prayers working with God's grace. ... We're going to find out that hearts were changed, enemies were reconciled, communities were renewed and families were restored because we prayed." He ended by quoting an old gospel song: "Somebody prayed for me. Had me on their mind, took the time and prayed for me. I'm so glad they prayed." To everyone praying for my mom: Thank you. I'm so glad you prayed.

*By Marc A. Thiessen, April 23, 2020,
for the Washington Post.*