

St. Ambrose Parish

DECEMBER 13, 2020
BEEHIVE



Chef Vonzell Feeds Homeless and First Responders

Every week since the pandemic began, Vonzell Whaley has prepared and delivered meals to Grosse Pointe and Detroit community members in need.

When COVID-19 abruptly ended the weekly fish fries at St. Ambrose Parish in Grosse Pointe Park this past Lent, it gave pastor Fr. Timothy Pelc an idea.

Parishioners, staff and volunteers had poured a lot of time, talent and treasure into making the events a success; why not instead direct that energy into helping others during the pandemic?

The treasure would come in the form of donations from many generous parishioners. The time and talent would come in the form of Vonzell Whaley, the chef who works for St. Ambrose in the catering kitchen at the ARK, a 7,000-square-foot banquet facility owned and operated by the parish.

Whaley, 33, also works the parish's Oysterfest each September. This would have been the 30th year for the event, which was instead held virtually because of social distancing concerns.

So Fr. Pelc reached out to the nearby St. John Community Center on Kercheval in Detroit, a homeless shelter that serves meals for up to 100 people daily, to ask what St. Ambrose could do to help.

The end result was an agreement — with Whaley's in-

put — to provide a meal every Saturday, which the parish has continued to do since the pandemic began. The meals, prepped at the St. Ambrose kitchen, are delivered each week to the St. John Center.

In addition to delivering food for 75-100 people at the homeless shelter each week, Whaley also makes meals for 50 police officers, firefighters and EMT first responders at the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety Department across the street.

"I wanted to do something to keep Vonzell working and to help the community at the same time," Fr. Pelc told *Detroit Catholic*. "St. Ambrose is both a Detroit and a Grosse Pointe parish. Helping the homeless and the first responders seems like a natural extension of who we are as a parish and a community."

Whaley, who has culinary arts in his blood, was on board from the beginning. His father, Fred Whaley, was the head chef at the Roostertail in Detroit before being hired as the chef at the ARK. Fred Whaley died suddenly in 2017, and his son now keeps his father's picture with him in the kitchen when he prepares meals.

"Everywhere he went, I was his shadow," said Whaley, who remembers helping his dad in the kitchen since he was a teenager. "I think because of him, I don't just look at cooking as a job; it's a part of me."

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Chef Vonzell Feeds Homeless and First Responders

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Whaley graduated with a degree in culinary arts from Dorsey Culinary Academy in Roseville in 2016. He has been the chef at the ARK catering hall since 2018, carrying on his father's tradition of creativity and excellence in the kitchen, as well as his famous pulled pork sandwiches during Oysterfest.

Whaley spends time preparing food on Fridays, and then cooks most of the day Saturday. He also works part time as a chef at the Roostertail, just like his father.

Whaley says it's a delight to deliver the food he prepares. Some of the guests stand outside the St. John Center when he arrives, waving enthusiastically when they recognize his vehicle and scrambling to open the doors for him. And on one occasion at the Grosse Pointe Park Public Safety building, after a rare previous week when Whaley did not bring a meal because of a family emergency, a police officer looked happy and relieved to see him, saying they were worried Whaley might not be cooking for them anymore.

"I walk in with a smile on my face every time. Even though I'm wearing a mask and they can't see it, the smile is there," Whaley said. "Once I started cooking for the police and the homeless, I wasn't just cooking anymore — I was bringing joy to people."

Whaley says the recipients sometimes make requests, such as meatloaf, ribs or macaroni and cheese. He enjoys making food that will make their day, knowing each person he serves is going through a stressful time.

Grosse Pointe Park Police Sgt. Dan Kolar said the police, fire, and emergency personnel working long weekends appreciate the warm meals provided by Chef Whaley and St. Ambrose.

"The meals boost the morale here," Sgt. Kolar said. "With the current environment and the rhetoric against the police, it's nice to know we're supported."

To fund the Saturday meals, St. Ambrose parishioners donate cash and food, and sometimes even supplies for the guests at the St. John Center. Whaley often arrives at the kitchen on Friday or Saturday to find money, food, socks or toothpaste on the counter with a note that says something like, "Hope this helps." Whaley looks forward to seeing what he might find each week for his friends at the shelter, sort of like Christmas morning.

For Fr. Pelc, the experience has been analogous to the miracle of the loaves and fishes. "There was never a budget for this, but somehow we've never been at a loss for funds either," Fr. Pelc said. "On certain weekends, a family will step up and underwrite the meal as a way of celebrating a party they would have thrown."

If not for COVID-19, parishioners would assist in the kitchen, but in order to keep everyone safe, volunteers aren't allowed to help with meal preparation or clean-up. Whaley often brings a few helpers of his own, however: his 12-year-old brother and his 7-year-old son, Vonzell Jr. Whaley says Vonzell Jr. mostly likes to be the "manager" at this point. He hopes cooking will follow in a few years.

"I call my mother after the meals, and she always says she's so proud of me, and she knows my father would be, too. She says I remind her of him, that I look just like him," Whaley said. "I tell her how good it feels to help people and brighten their day."

Serving the poor, as well as those who serve and protect the community, is a duty and a privilege, Fr. Pelc said. He's fond of quoting the parish's patron, St. Ambrose of Milan in the 4th century: "It is not from your own possessions that you are bestowing alms on the poor; you are but restoring to them what is theirs by right. For what was given to everyone for the use of all, you have taken for your exclusive use. The earth belongs not to the rich, but to everyone. Thus, far from giving lavishly, you are but paying part of your debt."

Fr. Pelc believes the Saturday meals just might offer a foretaste of heaven. "It's a marvelous image of those meals that Jesus talks about where the guest list is just about as varied as it comes, including guests picked up at the last minute from the highways and byways," Fr. Pelc said. "We are told that is what heaven will be like — we will be blown-away at who made it to that dinner party... most assuredly in seats much better than ours."

By Karla Dorweiler for the December 7, 2020 issue of Detroit Catholic.

St. Vincent de Paul Adopt-a-Family 2020

Many people in our neighborhood are in need of extra help at Christmas this year more than in years past. However, due to Covid-19, we must make changes to our usual Adopt-a-Family program. We know many of you would love to help out a family at Christmas as long as you could do it in a safe way. We would like to encourage those of you who have helped out in years past to do so again but possibly in different ways.

We have extra Kroger gift cards from our Thanksgiving collection to provide food for many of the families we have identified as possible Christmas recipients. What we could use is a means to provide them with toys or clothes for their children or other household needs. We think Meijer gift cards would be the best choice for these items. If you would like to donate one or more Meijer gift cards, please try to drop them off at the rectory by THIS Tuesday, December 15.

If you would like to adopt a family in a person-to-person way – by contacting the family and then shopping for them – please contact the rectory and we will put you in touch with a family of the appropriate size for your resources. When you adopt a family in this way, you generally provide food ... and gifts for the children.

The St. Ambrose Conference of the St. Vincent dePaul Society

All Things Considered

Today's front page article appeared in the Archdiocesan online magazine, that you can access at detroit-catholic.com. The Ezine is a worthy successor to the now defunct *Michigan Catholic*. Our Sabbath Suppers are 'small potatoes' when compared to major food operations like those operated by the Capuchins, Gleaners, Forgotten Harvest and organizations like Crossroads – but I guarantee few of these outreach operations have as talented a chef as Vonzel Whaley providing marvelous meals for their clients.

The pandemic has exposed the depth of the hunger crisis. It's estimated that prior to Covid 19, 39% of Detroit households were food-insecure, and now that number is even more heartbreaking. In Michigan, among the people who are struggling with hunger more than 300,000 are children.

Our Sabbath Suppers just take care of a fraction of the hungry at our door. When we began this project, I naively thought that by this time, we would be out of the Covid crisis. Instead we are deeper into it than ever before. So as long as we are able, Ambrose will continue our weekly offering. I encourage you to take a look at the Christmas food you're planning and remember those who are not so fortunate.

Our St. Vincent dePaul volunteers have been dealing with this issue for decades now – the needs of our neighborhood are never solved. Take a look at how you can help by reading the appeal they are making to you in their article on page seven of this issue. Let's work together and combine our efforts to reduce hunger – one person at a time.

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Just in time for Christmas comes the roll-out of Archbishop Vigneron's Family of Parishes reorganization plan. The timing of this seems Grinch-like. Parishes are hard pressed

these days to provide basic services and safe worship opportunities. Here at St. Ambrose, we've had a couple of close calls with staff persons being exposed to the virus, and like many parishes, we have gone back to staggered staffing to minimize risks and to make Christmas look "normal" for you. That is difficult enough without trying to fit our heads around a massive shift in how our parish will now be asked to operate in the near future.

This issue of the Bulletin went to press before the Archbishop's announcement of what parishes are in our family. But quite honestly, there will be ample time to deal with that. Right now my anxieties grow with each detail of the massive overhaul of priestly pastoral ministry. That is matched by all on our staff who feel threatened with a more corporate model of operations.

The Archdiocese just released a lengthy document entitled "The Family of Parishes Playbook." I asked our Parish Council President, Grant Ruttiger to review it. Here are his comments: "I dug into the Playbook, and my head is spinning. The top-of-mind items that struck me:

- Five new, full-time Director-level Mission Direct positions for each Family? Director of Discipleship Formation, Director of Engagement, Director of Christian Service, Director of Family Ministry and Director of Worship.

- Then there is the unfortunate Mission Support Director who has three full pages of wide-ranging, day-to-day

responsibilities in the areas related to Finance/Accounting, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Facility Management.

- It is made clear more than once that 'each parish within the Family continues to be solely responsible for their financial viability. This includes establishing appropriate budgets, fundraising and controlling cost.' However, there is a discussion of broader financial responsibility within the Family. How are these reconciled?

- One key focus area is seeking commonality because 'common practices provide opportunities for cost efficiencies and improved performance.' The AoD is not a corporation and does not seem equipped to institute lean practices to gain efficiencies. Even if it could, there is no way that those efficiencies could ever hope to cover the cost of six Director-level positions within each Family.

It may look good on paper (and I'm not so sure of that), but implementation seems like it will be a major uphill, disorienting struggle.

We have been assured by Deacon Mike Houghton who is running this restructuring for our Archdiocese that "while the overall direction for Families of Parishes is outlined in the Playbook, the details of executing that direction will vary from Family to Family.

The Playbook will be updated over time. These updates will serve to refine what has already been stated and will not include significant changes to our direction.

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WE'LL LEAVE THE LIGHT ON FOR YOU

All the parishes in the Vicariate will be hearing private confessions in their own churches on:

Monday, December 14	6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 15	2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

At St. Ambrose a Communal Penance Service will be celebrated on Saturday, December 19 at 1:30

All Things Considered, cont

Continued from page two...

Our move to Families of Parishes is significant and will substantially change the structure by which we operate. There is a natural inclination in any restructuring effort to look for ways to simply rename what is currently done and thus avoid the hard work that is required to achieve real change. This inclination must be resisted if we are to be successful in our move to Families of Parishes.” This is one tough family!

I’ve been told that the Playbook is an internal document focused on the roles of clergy and parish staff in Families of Parishes. While it does not contain any confidential material, I was asked to be judicious about sharing it with others and only to do so if I felt it necessary. I think it is necessary to put this information in the hands of those in the parish who ultimately will have to implement it. Contact me should you want to access it prior to the materials that are being produced for parishioner consumption.

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Please note that for the time period starting on Christmas Eve up to January 10th we’re adopting a reservation system for mass attendance. This should help avoid the problem of persons showing up for mass and not being able to get in the building because we have reached capacity. Reserve now at <https://stambroseparish1.flocknote.com/signup/20686>.

To allow more people to worship during the season, we’ve added additional liturgies. The Archbishop’s idea of selecting a mass anytime between December 24th and 27th is a good one. It also takes the extreme pressure off of Christmas Eve, which seems to be every Catholic’s preferred time to celebrate.

For each of the liturgical feasts – Christmas, Holy Family, New Year’s, Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord – we will broadcast or live-stream one of the masses from each.

Remember that our Archbishop has dispensed Catholics from the obligation of Mass attendance until Lent 2021.

TRP

The Buzz

This Third Sunday of Advent has traditionally been called *Gaudete* Sunday because this Latin word, which calls us to rejoice, was the first word sung at the beginning of the weekend’s Mass. It’s joy comes from the fact that Advent is more than half over and the celebration of Christmas is coming very soon.

With such darkness covering our world for most of 2020, some may doubt that we should be rejoicing about much of anything. Today’s Gospel puts that doubt into perspective – but still not with easy answers. People doubted who this holy man, John the Baptist, was. You can feel in the questions of the priests and Levites that their doubts had really transitioned into something much more closed and oppositional. And the setup was that if they couldn’t understand or accept the message of the overtly obvious prophet, how much more difficult would their waiting and recognition be for the Messiah who hung out with sinners, common folk, and the poor.

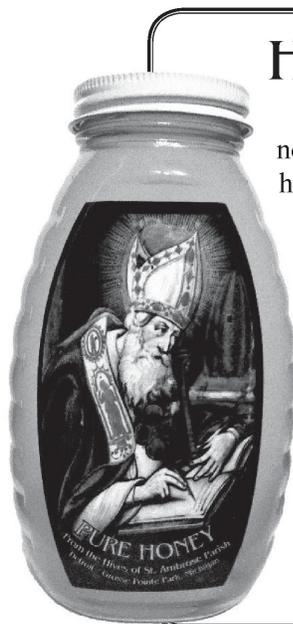
In the midst of our current darkness, John the Baptist is described today as one who came to testify to the light – but also it was made clear that he himself was not the light – in contrast to Jesus who alone is the source of light (see John 8:12).

One way to pray with the Scriptures this week, or really any time of year, is to see how you fit into any of the roles portrayed in the passage. For example, as we prepare for our Advent Penance Liturgy next Saturday we might ask ourselves whether we are more like ... the distant authorities who wanted no direct contact ... the Levites who questioned John’s identity ... the Pharisees who questioned his practices ... John who pointed to and prepared the way of the Lord ... or Christ the Light Himself.

Before you dismiss the last identification as too blasphemous, reflect again on how Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist connect us to the life and mission of Christ much more intimately than John the Baptist, great though he was, ever had the earthly possibility of experiencing himself. As we approach the darkest day of the year (in the Northern hemisphere on the 21st), let’s pray for the courage to live up to the fullness of the challenging relationship Christ has already given to each of us who refer to ourselves with His name – Christian. Through Him, and with Him, and in Him – be the light to your world. And let no darkness of any sort overcome you or tell you otherwise. For 2020, our world needs this kind of Christmas gift. No shopping required. Anti-pathogenic social distancing is built in. Yet our world still desperately needs this gift. And if we don’t give it, who will?!



What about you personally – what do you want for Christmas? What are you hoping for? Are the answers to these two questions different from each other? By any



Honey from Our Hives

The “2020 vintage” of St. Ambrose honey is now processed and packaged. While we’ve added new hives, we’ve also left more honey for the bees themselves to winter-over, so there is a limited number of jars that we can offer for sale. The price is \$50 per jar, and purchase is restricted to one 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 have been on sale since December 7th through our office. Call (313) 822-2814.

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chance is one or both of your answers – ‘I want (hope for) everything . . . forever’?! Does that sound too greedy, or is it at the heart of the ‘reason for the season’?

Anything short of everything (= only God and eternal life with Christ) is just going to drive hope down a dead-end street. While progress, and science, and politics – and our own powers and abilities – are important, they are not the source nor goal of genuine fulfillment and lasting happiness. They are modes by which we can express love. God is love. By communion in God’s love we are redeemed and saved. This truth gives meaning to everything else; because of this we can have, and give, true hope.

So, what do you want (hope for) for Christmas? Don’t stop short of wanting EVERYTHING, FOREVER. And don’t stop short of giving your loved ones the same. We’ll all be richer for such a lasting gift.



This whole reflection on joy, hope, and gifts could form the basis of a great examination of conscience for each of us in preparation for Christmas. Sin is whatever we allow to stand in the way (or whatever we settle for short) of “everything”.

Advent is a time meant to help us renew our focus on continuing to move in the direction of everything our deepest nature tells us we want. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a great way to do this. Count on getting ready to receive the gifts you most want this year by privately celebrating this Sacrament at any parish in our Vicariate this Monday evening (6:00-8:00) or Tuesday afternoon (2:00-4:00). In addition, we at St. Ambrose will celebrate this Sacrament in a communal (but properly distanced) Liturgy next Saturday, December 19th, at 1:30 p.m. You just may find these shortest days of the year filled with the most light.

Chuck Dropiewski

Pregnancy Aid Giving Tree

For 27 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 their new location at 15847 E. 8 Mile Rd. in Eastpointe, where women with unplanned pregnancies can find positive alternatives to abortion.

Given the “iffy” nature of church attendance and shopping over the next few weeks, it makes sense to extend the collection time for Pregnancy Aid this year — and take a pass on the gift tags. Usually we would ask that gifts arrive here during the actual Christmas masses. However, because of current circumstances, **gifts to Pregnancy Aid will be welcomed now through the end of December.** Although cumbersome when it comes to storage, it’s better for the good of the whole to get this done earlier rather than later. **If you want to make an online purchase from a vendor, please have it sent directly to the parish office.**

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, breastfeeding accessories and informative 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. 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.

The Beehive

is the parish weekly bulletin of the
St. Ambrose Catholic Community
Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

Pastor: Rev. Timothy R. Pelc
Pastoral Minister: Charles Dropiewski
Religious Education: Kelly Anne Woolums
Minister of Music: Dr. Norah Duncan IV
Office Manager: Peggy O’Connor
Secretary: Mary Urbanski

Sacramental Celebrations

Masses: On the Lord’s Day –
Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday - 10:00 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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Liturgy Schedule for the Coming Week

December 14

St. John of the Cross, priest & doctor

December 15

Weekday – 3rd Week in Advent

December 16

Weekday – 3rd Week in Advent

December 17

Weekday – 3rd Week in Advent

December 18

Weekday – 3rd Week in Advent

December 19

Weekday – 3rd Week in Advent

4:00 p.m. – Mass – 4th Sunday in Advent

December 20

10:00 a.m. – Mass – 4th Sunday in Advent

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

Spending Spotlight

St. Ambrose and ARK Chef Vonzell Whaley have been feeding the homeless at the St. John Center Shelter and the first responders at G.P Park Public Safety. In November, the cost of food was \$1,410, which does not include his salary.

Scriptures for the 3rd Week in Advent

December 14

Nm 24: 2-7, 15-17a
Ps 25: 4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 89
Mt 21: 23-27

December 15

Zep 3: 1-2, 9-13
Ps 34: 2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19-23
Mt 21: 38-32

December 16

Is 45: 6b-8, 18, 21c-25
Ps 85: 9ab, 10-14
Lk 7: 18b-23

December 17

Gn 49: 2, 8, -10
Ps 72: 3-4, 7-8, 17
Mt 1: 1-17

December 18

Jer 23: 5-8
Ps 72: 1-2, 12-13, 18-19
Mt 1: 18-25

December 19

Jgs 13: 2-7, 24-25a
Ps 71: 3-4a, 5-6b, 16-17
Lk 1: 5-25

December 20

2 Sm 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Ps 89: 2-5, 27, 29
Rom 16: 25-27
Lk 1: 26-38

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Through next weekend, Dec. 19 - 20, there will be two Masses here on the weekend – Saturday at 4:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:00 a.m. For the Christmas holidays, we have scheduled extra masses to accomodate more people without increasing the limit of 25% of the building’s capacity – roughly 150 persons. For the hollidays, pre-registration is necessary. Face masks and social distancing is required. In addition, we will now be requiring tracing information similar to how it’s done at your doctor’s office. Our church building is sanitized prior to each liturgy. View this Sunday’s mass at facebook.com/stambroseparish or stambroselive on youtube.stambrosechurch.net starting at 8:00 a.m.

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish requires a *minimum* of..... \$10,100.00
On Sunday, December 6, 2020
in envelopes we received \$5,769.00
in the loose collection \$2,004.00
in electronic donations \$3,896.00
for a total of \$11,669.00
Over budget for the week..... \$1,569.00
Number of envelopes mailed 782
Number of envelopes used53



Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Christine Busque, 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, Eileen O’Brien, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, Alexandra Cullen, Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Alex Billiu, Jerry Hansen, Jackie Walkowski, Kristen Kingzett, Maria Simcina, Albina Checki, Brian Tague, Sharif Hannan, Shirley Whelan, Anne Purvis, Chris Walsh, Jerry Gutowski, Kevin O’Connor, and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with COVID-19.

The CARES Act:

New charitable giving incentives

The End-of-the-Year Christmas Collection is an essential part of our operational budget here at St. Ambrose. Your Christmas gift to St. Ambrose at this time may provide you with additional tax advantages.

Signed into law on March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES ACT) includes provisions designed to encourage charitable contributions of cash. It allows a growing number of taxpayers who do not itemize their returns to receive a tax deduction of up to \$300 for cash donations to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations during calendar year 2020.

Taxpayers who itemize returns may now deduct up to 100% of their 2020 Adjusted Grosse Income (AGI). The limit on corporate donations has been lifted from 10% to 25%. Please consult your tax advisor.

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. If you cannot find Oplatek in stores, we have some in our office.

When Your Donation Is Worth 7% More

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 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%.

When it comes to calculating your charitable deductions for the Internal Revenue Service this coming April, the cutoff date for 2020 deductions is December 31st. So, it's now time to review your tax strategy.

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.



Thanksgiving food cards have already been delivered, but the need is ongoing. **You can help our SVdP this season by purchasing gift cards to Meijer's which can be used for food, children's gifts, etc. Drop them in your collection envelope or mail them to the rectory office.**

The need for assistance is increasing once again to early-Covid levels (with no federal stimulus checks in the offing). In addition to the Christmas gift cards, cash or checks made out to St. Vincent dePaul St. Ambrose Conference are most welcome this season to help fund the group's ongoing work in our community. Your gifts over the last couple of months made it possible for the St. Vincent de Paul Conference here at St. Ambrose to help 4 families with food, clothing, rent and utilities, and transportation. That made it possible for them to experience the love that God has for them and to have hope and not feel alone.

The Christmas Season

COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

Saturday, December 19, 2020 AT 2 P.M.

THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 19, 2020 AT 4 P.M. (FACEBOOK LIVE)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020 AT 10 A.M.

Archbishop Vigneron suggests Catholics participate in Christmas by attending Mass once during the four days of Christmas Eve, Christmas Day or the Saturday or Sunday of Holy Family weekend (Dec. 24-27)

VIGIL OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Thursday, December 24, 2020,

Masses AT 4 P.M. (FB LIVE) AND 8 P.M.

FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Friday, December 25, 2020

MIDNIGHT MASS AT 12 A.M. (FB LIVE)

MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

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

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Saturday, December 26, 2020, MASS AT 4 P.M. (FB LIVE)

Sunday, December 27, 2020,

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

NEW YEAR'S EVE & DAY

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God

Thursday, December 31, 2020 AT 4 P.M. (FB LIVE)

Friday, January 1, 2021, MASS AT 10 A.M.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 2, 2021, MASS AT 4 P.M.

Sunday, January 3, 2021,

MASS AT 8:30 A.M. AND 11:15 A.M. (FB LIVE)

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 9, 2021,

MASS AT 1:30 P.M. – CONFIRMATIONS (FB LIVE)

MASS AT 4:00 P.M.

Sunday, January 10, 2021,

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

Parishioners must reserve their seats in order to attend a church service. We will open masses to a congregation of 25 percent of the building's capacity — roughly 150 persons. Face masks and social distancing are required. In addition, we now require contact tracing information. Archbishop Vigneron has extended the dispensation to attend Mass on Saturday/Sunday, as well as Christmas, but we want to welcome and encourage those able to join us at Mass during this Holy Season. Note that attendance at one of the masses from December 24th through the 27th is considered "Christmas." There is no designated Children's Liturgy this year, and there is one extra mass on Christmas Eve. There is an online reservation form for parishioners to reserve their seats for each mass. Everyone must reserve their seats at the mass/es they plan to attend. This will help assure mass-goers that they will not be turned away when we reach full capacity at each service. Each reservation is limited to 2 seats. Go to: stambroseparish1.flocknote.com/signup/20686 or call us at 313-822-2814.