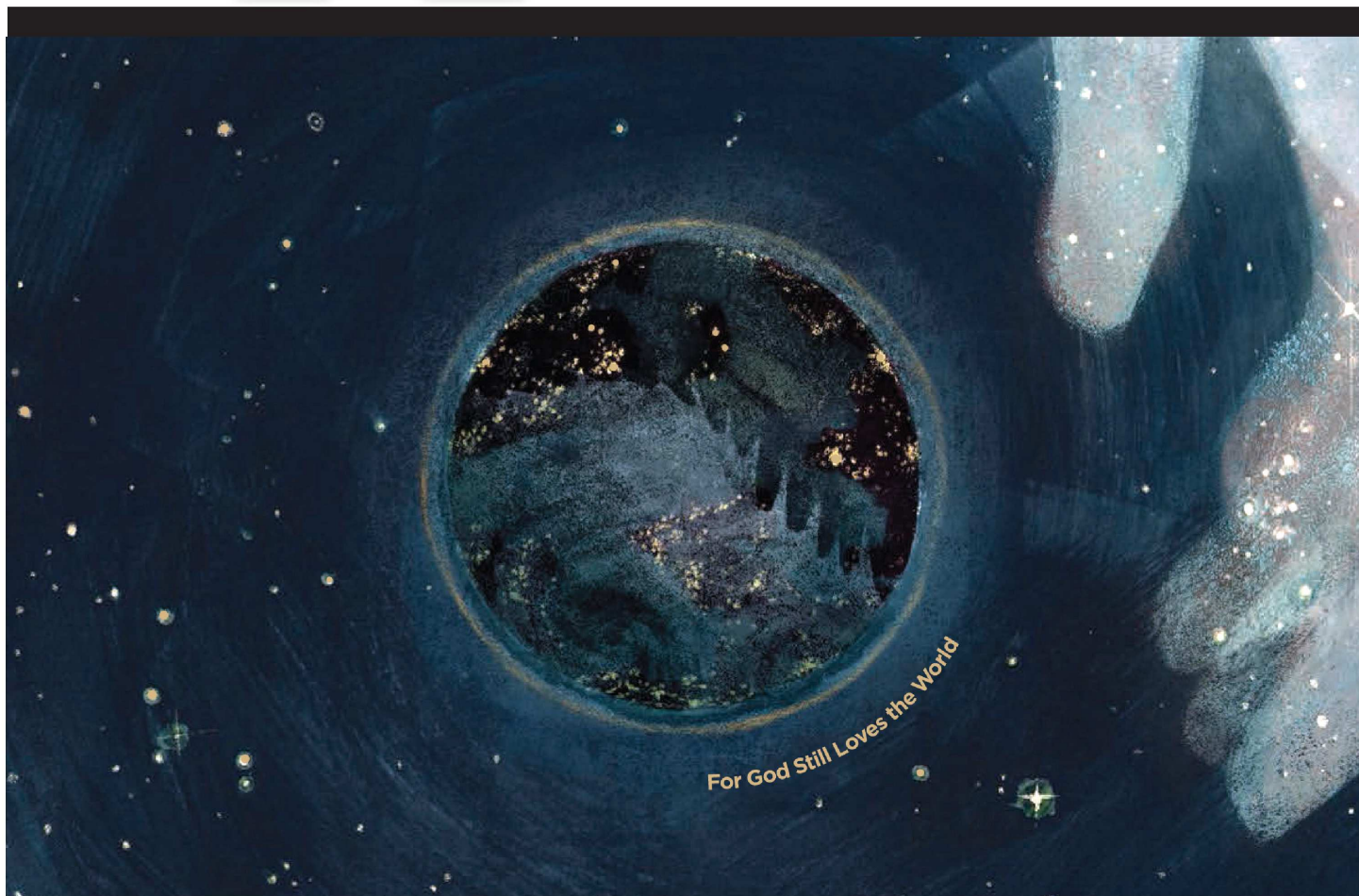


# St. Ambrose Parish

DECEMBER 27, 2020  
BEEHIVE



Christmas promises to be more than memorable this year thanks to the coronavirus pandemic. Worshipers will find their celebrations of Jesus' incarnation quarantined, their travel and family gatherings curtailed. Manger Square in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve will likely resound with comparative quiet, as will countless churches where "silent night" will have more to do with global angst than heavenly peace. Carols and sermons will occur online, alongside all the Christmas shopping.

The hopes and fears of 2020 are met in Jesus this Christmas. God in the flesh was born to us with every limit the Incarnation imposes. Could Jesus have contracted a virus? As he was fully human, we presume so. But as he was fully God, we likewise presume any virus only would have had power over Jesus if granted from above (John 19:11).

Among us mere humans, COVID-19 continues its spread like fire in a parched forest, without discrimination. It burns alongside hot civil unrest and intensely divided public discourse and politics worldwide. Pandemics show no partiality. Discrimination does happen among the cinders, however.

The global poor, those without access to good health care, the elderly and already sick, minorities and the marginalized, essential workers, and those needing riskier work to make ends meet sink under the ashes. This may not be our last coronavirus Christmas. A vaccine holds promise, but it won't immediately eradicate the viral threat, especially if there's not universal availability or compliance, or if the virus mutates.

Whatever beauty ultimately arises from the ashes will be the work of the Spirit (Isa. 61:3). Disparities exacerbated by the pandemic between privileged and poor are those Jesus was born to confront. As Mary sang of God at her son's conception: "He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty" (Luke 1:51-53).

Still, in the spirit of incarnational humility, Jesus insisted we each must take up our own cross to follow him. Loss is the sure way to real life. But human pride – a viral vice –

*Continued on page 2*



## God still loves the world

*Continued from page 1*

fiercely pushes back against crosses by asserting autonomy and control. Pride refuses to concede to mere humanity with its limitation and brokenness, toiling instead to construct a fake front of godlike sovereignty — independent, detached, and fully in charge. Psychologist Richard Beck labels this “the dark and pathological side” of American success. We labor for material and emotional self-sufficiency so as to eliminate every trace of vulnerability.

The real God born to us at Christmas — whom we worship — took on a real human body, one subject to aging and genetic error, sagging flesh and diminished sight, clogged arteries, declining memory, and death. And the Incarnation occurred amid disparate poverty and scandal, oppression and uncertainty. Jesus cried as a baby and navigated adolescence. He lived a righteous life and died an unjust death for us.

Christmas humanity in all its indignity anticipates the resurrection of the body, but even resurrected Jesus still bears his scars (John 20:27). Christians believe in Jesus as fully God and fully human, and nowhere is full humanity more manifest than in dying. The forces of decrepitude and decay are always at work in us and witness to our neediness.

As we confine ourselves this Christmas, let us do so with a renewed awareness of the incarnational limits we celebrate in Jesus, who did not consider equality with God as something to exploit (Phil. 2:6). Let this awareness fuel our prayerful, active concern for fellow Christians and others worldwide threatened and thwarted by this pandemic. Every Christmas season decries its own commercialization and seeks to re-ground itself in true meaning. If losing our lives and our comfortable lifestyles opens us up to the true humanity we share with the least and the last and the lost around the world, and thereby meaningfully reconnects us to each other, then I say Merry Christmas.

*By Daniel Harrell for Christianity Today  
November 2020 issue. [christianitytoday.com](http://christianitytoday.com).*

# The Christmas Season

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)

## 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.

COVID-19 changes the way we worship this Christmas season. 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 24<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup> 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. Go to: [stambroseparish1.flocknote.com/signup/20686](http://stambroseparish1.flocknote.com/signup/20686). If you cannot access the online form, call us at 313-822-2814.

DAILY  
PRAYER  
2021

DFP

## Pray Every Day

Could you be searching for a fresh new way to pray every day of the year? Daily Prayer 2021 is your guide to prayer that includes scripture, psalmody, a brief reflection, general intercessions, and a closing prayer. It is ideal for personal and family reflection upon the word of God. This also makes an excellent gift for a senior, a newlywed or for a student away at college.

These prayerbooks are \$10 each — which is a modest investment in someone's spiritual formation. To pick up a copy of this year's Daily Prayer 2021, call the rectory office at 822-2814.



# All Things Considered

It's no understatement to say that 2020 has been a year like no other – one beset with plenty of loss and delayed gratification. Christmas will likely be a somewhat less-joyous affair, with many Catholics unable to attend Mass or to celebrate in person with loved ones – not to mention more than 311,000 empty chairs around the Christmas table for those who have died of Covid.

As our president-elect has described it, this will be a very dark winter, as the virus continues to wreak its destruction, infecting record numbers of Americans, causing yet-to-be determined long-term health effects for those lucky enough to survive it, and causing untold damage to the livelihoods of millions and to our national economy.

The people in darkness, as the prophet Isaiah reminds us, are desperate for the light.

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I had our bookkeeper pull up our income figures for this budget year which reaches its halfway mark in four days. As of December 15<sup>th</sup>, we were running reasonably well with regular envelope (plus electronic) income. We're only under budget by about \$19,000. Last year's campaign to encourage online giving was truly fortuitous, with lots of our parishioners participating in parish support even when they can't be here in person. Our Facebook liturgies have also engendered a small group of donors, some of whom are from out of state, but have found us.

During the pandemic, we've been the recipient of a couple of very generous donations which have helped us keep payroll and benefits going as well as to get ahead on some repairs.

I understand that these are difficult economic times for many and as such, we're all called to be cautious and generous as best fits our circumstances. To keep

our financial ship sailing in the right direction we'll at some point have to plug the envelope shortfall. And there is the matter of compensating the loss of the \$----- rebate from this year's Catholic Services Appeal.

All of this is by way of saying that the end-of-the-year Christmas collection is a great time to take a look at what you might be able to do in terms of making a donation to St. Ambrose.

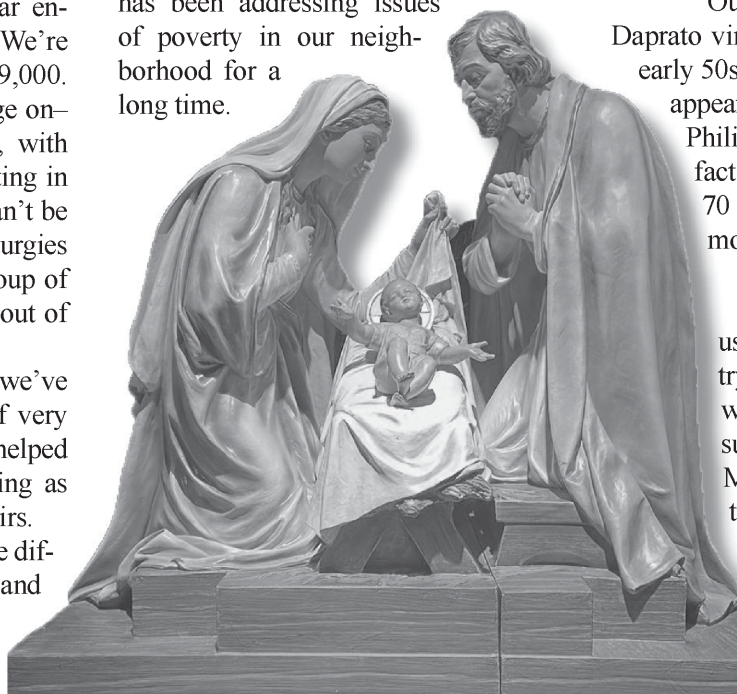
Whenever I make an appeal like this I inevitably get "widow's mites" and I am humbled. That would describe two copper coins noted by Jesus by a widow who gave them to the temple treasury. Jesus witnesses this offering and describes how great her gift was, because it represented a greater proportion of her wealth than the larger gifts of other religious leaders.

Everyone, even the "widow" has the privilege of being generous. But if you truly are a "widow" that is, in difficult economic straights, be sensible. And if you are not an "economic widow" heed the call to support your parish, as well as a whole lot of other needy causes clamoring for our help right now.

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One such need at our doorstep that can't be ignored is the work of the St. Vincent dePaul Society.

Here at St. Ambrose, we have a small but powerful SVdP chapter that has been addressing issues of poverty in our neighborhood for a long time.



This year, they also lost out on one of their major fund-raising events when they cancelled their Spaghetti Dinner.

With governmental assistance programs in chaos, some of the few reliable places for desperate people to turn to for assistance are faith-based programs. The needs of the poor will only increase as this winter progresses. Sometime in the next couple of weeks, write a check or purchase a food gift card to Meijers, Krogers or Parkway and get it over to the SVdP society via the rectory.

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I hope you enjoy the simplified nativity set-up we used in church this year. The Holy Family set is the work of the Daprato Statuary Company. It was founded in 1860 in Chicago by Italian immigrants. For more than a century, Daprato artisans cranked out thousands of statues and other religious artifacts in Plaster-of-Paris or cement, filling churches with low-cost multiple copies of saints and angels that met the Victorian/Romantic decorative tastes of the Pre-Vatican II age. Devotional tastes changed in the 1960s and 70s, and many Daprato statues were moved out of churches. Because they were multiples, they were of low value and many were discarded. Daprato statues sales dropped. Now, it's a collector's dream to find a vintage Daprato in mint condition.

Our Holy Family is of later Daprato vintage – from the late 1940s, early 50s. It is making only its second appearance since the closing of St. Philip Neri Parish in 1989. The fact that it has endured a rough 70 years seemed to capture the mood of the moment.

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The pandemic forced us to embrace a video ministry that I will admit I probably would not have gone to with such vigor. I find celebrating Mass for a televised audience to be particularly stressful – that is the main reason why I gave up being one of the celebrants for the WJBK Mass For Shut-Ins.

*Continued on page 4*

## All Things Considered, cont

*Continued from page two...*

But there is no denying that our weekly broadcasts over Facebook have found a strong following. It's certainly a vehicle for holding our parish together when Covid transmission looms. We did invest in some permanent camera installations, but our installers were under quarantine up until a few days before Christmas. We'll try to get more cameras working week by week. Now that we are into video ministry, I don't see how we can ever stop doing it – it's reaching more people than we might have in person on some weekends.

It also allows us to involve persons who have moved away as well as those who are at a distance. This summer we did a First Communion and the recipient's family in the Philippines got to watch it live. For Confirmation, two weeks from now, we had to limit seating to five persons per confirmand. With a video uplink, all their family members will be able to witness the ceremony. The same has proven true for weddings and funerals.

While watching mass means not participating in Holy Communion – it still keeps worship in our minds and hearts. I hope to see you sometime soon here at Mass, or at least give us a thumbs-up on Facebook.

If you are wary of crowds, we can arrange to have you visit the church alone or with your family by appointment during this week. Perhaps you have someone with special needs, or a senior that does not move easily? Come and pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament and say a prayer at the Daprato Nativity set, or take a photo in front of our parish Christmas tree. Arrange the time and day with our office by phone or on line.

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Can you believe that you've made it to the end of my column without me once mentioning the Family of Parishes reorganization plan? With all that's going on in the world, and given the sacred Christmas season – who wants to talk shop?

TRP

## Stewardship Reflection

*"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive." - Colossians 3:13*

Forgiving is one of the hardest things for people to do. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others. Go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and receive God's mercy and forgiveness. Then, share the gift of forgiveness with someone – a family member, a friend or a co-worker. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

## 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 with a marking "Pregnancy Aid" on the label or gift card.

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 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.

## 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 are on sale through our office. Call (313) 822-2814.





## The Buzz

My deepest prayer today is that the joy and peace of the Lord's presence will be with you and your family this Christmas Season and throughout the coming year. May God's protection and health fill and surround you. And more . . . I hope the Spirit of Emmanuel helped you to recognize all the gifts you have already received, and to yet want only the gifts you most need. Amen.

Hot on the heels of Christmas, this weekend is designated on the Catholic liturgical calendar as the "Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph." Rather than an anticlimactic afterthought, the idea behind this observance is central to the meaning of Christmas. After all, family is a most precious gift we have received from God . . . and continue to receive. But it is also a gift we must constantly *give* to our loved ones as well. Such intimate and mutual dedication and sharing is revealed to us as being at the core of God's very life in the Holy Trinity – in whose image and likeness we are made. At Christmas we celebrate the explicit revelation of God coming to be one with us in the human/divine Jesus. In the Holy Family, God expands our (in)sight by way of this reflection of the very nature of God as Trinity. Every good family of faith participates in this reflective reality that shows us who we are truly meant to be.

So I hope you take some time this week, and throughout the Christmas season, to celebrate the presence of God's image and life in your family – in whatever outward form your family has at this point in your history. And feel free to join Joseph in dreaming good, protective, and growth-full dreams for your family. Then give your loved ones the gift of a dedicated heart, hand, and soul that is required to bring those dreams to life. Happiness from such gifts doesn't require batteries . . . and yet will last an eternity.

Speaking of Christmas, what do you really know about the story of the birth of Jesus? I have a suggestion for your Domestic Church about a fun yet very enriching spiritual exercise. This is *for adults and older teens only*. It involves taking a break over the next couple of weeks to relax for a moment or two with the Bible. Those embarking on this exercise are required to do two things: one is to make sure that your faith is firm and secure, and the other is to approach the reading of the stories with such attention to detail as though you have never heard them.

Now, a repeat of the caution: this is only for you if you want something deeper and more challenging/demanding from the story than what cute crèche scenes have to offer. And don't get me wrong — I like stables with statues and all the warm feelings and memories that go along with them. (Although, for many years I have been searching unsuccessfully for a crèche where the main characters look more Semitic than Nordic!)

OK, you've been cautioned. If prepared, read on. If your prayer and enjoyment of the season would be upset, stop here, jump past the rest of this segment, and continue on to the rest of today's BUZZ.

The exercise is this: find the stories about the birth of Jesus in each of the Gospels of the Bible. (If exploring the Scriptures is new to you, relax and enjoy the discoveries you will make very quickly.) Next, place fingers or bookmarks at the beginning of each of these stories. If you are doing this with one or more other people, you can assign individuals or teams to represent each Gospel's story.

Then start. Compare the stories detail by detail, character by character, action by action, dialogue by dialogue. Notice what's there and what isn't there in each. See patterns; find emphases. Be challenged; grow deeper in the Lord's life. (Call me at 313-332-5631 if you get stuck or upset.)

The Christmas story from our childhood is wonderful. The adult Christmas stories from Scripture are crucial. It's great to have such a gift be so relevant for any age or stage of our lives. Thank you, Emmanuel!

Wesołych Świąt, Bożego Narodzenia i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku,  
Karol Dropiewski

## 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:** stambrosecurch.net

## Call Waiting

Perhaps you have (or someone you know has) a hunger for the living Christ's presence in your life. Perhaps you have heard his call, or met him and want to join fully with the members of his risen body – the Church – through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion. When the time is right for you, it is never too early and it is never too late to inquire about satisfying that deepest desire in your soul. Just give Fr. Tim or me a call at 822-2814 and we'll be happy to discuss a custom-designed process just for you.

This experience can fit those who have never been Baptized – those who were Baptized in another Christian denomination and want to join us in Communion – as well as those Catholics who have "missed a sacrament" If you recognize that the Lord is calling you to deeper relationship with Him we're here to help that happen.

Chuck Dropiewski



## Liturgy Schedule

**December 28**

*The Holy Innocents, martyrs*

**December 29**

*St. Thomas Becket, bishop & martyr*

**December 30**

*6<sup>th</sup> day within the Octave of the Nativity*

**December 31**

*St. Sylvester I, pope*

*4:00 p.m. - Mass - For world peace*

**January 1**

*Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God*

*10:00 a.m. - Mass - For world peace*

**January 2**

*St. Basil the Great and*

*Sr. Gregory Nazianzen, bishops & doctors*

*4:00 p.m. Mass - For all People*

**January 3**

*The Epiphany of our Lord*

*8:30 a.m. - Mass - For all people*

*11:15 a.m. - Mass - For all people*

**\*Liturgies marked as Facebook live will also be accessible throughout the day.**

### Religious Education Reminder

December 20<sup>th</sup> began our Christmas break. Online classes will resume on January 10<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, join us for mass on Facebook. The break is a great time to get caught up on your syllabus and Flipgrid postings.

## Scriptures for the Week of Christmas

**December 28**

1 Jn 3: 5-2: 2

Ps 124: 2-5, 7c-8

Mt 2: 13-18

**December 29**

1 Jn 2: 3-11

Ps 96: 1-3, 5b-2

Lk 2: 22-35

**December 30**

1 Jn 2: 12-17

Ps 96: 7-10

Lk 2: 36-40

**December 31**

1 Jn 2: 18-21

Ps 96: 1-2, 11-13

Jn 1: 1-18

**January 1**

Nm 6: 22-27

Ps 67: 2-3, 5, 6, 7, 8

Gal 4: 4-7

Lk 2: 16-21

**January 2**

1 Jn 2: 22-28

Ps 98: 1-4

Jn 1: 19-28

**January 3**

Is 60: 1-6

Ps 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-13

Eph 3: 2-3a, 5-6

Mt 2: 1-12

## New Year's & Epiphany of the Lord

Thursday, December 31, 2020 at 4 p.m. (Facebook live)

Friday, January 1, 2021, Mass at 10 a.m.

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)

Out of an abundance of caution, we have opened mass to a congregation of 25% of the building's capacity – roughly 150 persons. **You should reserve your seats in order to attend in person. Go to: [stambroseparish1.flocknote.com/signup/20686](https://stambroseparish1.flocknote.com/signup/20686). If you cannot access the online form, call us at 313-822-2814.** Face masks and social distancing is required. Our church building is sanitized prior to each liturgy. To participate from home go to: [facebook.com/stambroseparish](https://facebook.com/stambroseparish).

## Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

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

**On Sunday, December 13, 2020**

in envelopes we received ..... \$2,776.00

in the loose collection ..... \$897.00

in electronic donations ..... \$2,810.00

for a total of ..... \$7,263.00

**Under** budget for the week..... \$2,837.00

Number of envelopes mailed ..... 782

Number of envelopes used ..... 39



## Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Bp. Thomas Gumbleton, Mae 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 give 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) non profit organizations during calendar year 2020.

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

## Spending Spotlight

Our church and rectory heating systems are relatively new. But by their very nature, steam systems are notoriously finicky. In our ongoing efforts at fussing and tweaking these systems, we recently had a company install new boiler motors in church in order to keep the system there running and the building warm. Eventually, there will be more extensive work done on the boiler trap, tank and piping. The bill for the initial work: \$6,750.



## End of the Year Giving

Ebenezer Scrooge is the protagonist of Charles Dickens' 1843 novella "A Christmas Carol." At the beginning of the story, Scrooge is a cold-hearted miser who tells his charitable solicitors that he wished to be left alone. But all the rich fool wanted was to be left alone with his material abundance. Christian stewards know that this attitude is not compatible with being followers of Christ Jesus.

Let us embrace the joy and the delightfulness of the Christmas season and at the same time remain mindful that the true joy of Christmas is not tied in to the wealth of goods under the tree, but to the abundance of love and generosity that fills our hearts and spills out to others, especially those most in need of our generous spirit.

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%.

When it comes to calculating your charitable deductions for the Internal Revenue Service this coming April, the cutoff date for 2019 deductions is December 31<sup>st</sup>. So, take a minute to review your tax strategy.

Ten percent of annual giving occurs in the last three days of December. Today and the next two days are your last chance to make a tax-deductible donation for 2020.

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.



## Welcome to St. Ambrose!

*St. Ambrose Parish continues to grow, not only in spirit, but also in numbers.*

*On behalf of our parish community, now beginning its 104<sup>th</sup> year of existence, we warmly welcome all those who have newly registered with us this past year.*

**Mr. & Mrs. James Mackinnon on Vernier in the Woods**

**Mr. & Mrs. James Barrett on Roslyn in the Woods**

**Mr. Dan Driscoll on Maryland in the Park**

**Mr. Zachary Kowalczyk on Woodmont in Harper Woods**

**Mr. William Mallow on Grayton in the Park**

**Mr. & Mrs. John Cunningham on Thorn Tree in the Woods**

**Mr. & Mrs. Joel Myers on E. Kings Ct. in the Farms**

**Mr. & Mrs. Brandon Krajniaki on Trombley in the Park**

**Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Bates on Anita in the Woods**

**Mr. & Mrs. Neil Leising on Hunt Club in the Woods**

**Ms. Jeniifer Ferkovich on Beaconsfield in the Park**

**Mr. & Mrs. Gerard Huvaere on Torrey Road in the Woods**

**Mr. & Mrs. Jason Keast on Lincoln in the City**

**Mrs. Noelle Lothamer on Eastlawn in Detroit**

**Mr. & Mrs. Brandon Seng on Nottingham in the Park**

**Ms. Hannah Schramke on Nottingham in the Park**

**Ms. Megan Hart on Neff in the City**

**Mr. & Mrs. Steven Grider on Barrington in the Park**

**Mr. Michael Andrzejczyk on Woodcrest in Harper Woods**

*The Covid Pandemic has resulted in the lowest number of new registrants in three decades. We anticipate that those who have delayed joining the parish, will do so in the new year. Even if you are just a member of our on-line worshipping community, you can become a member of St. Ambrose Parish by registering your household. Call 313-822-2814 or email [stambrose@comcast.net](mailto:stambrose@comcast.net).*