

Our Bishops' Response to Gun Violence

The following are remarks of Bishop Frank Dewant of Venice, FL, Chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development delivered to the General Assembly of Catholic Bishops two years ago.

Let us begin with context: there are approximately 40,000 gun related deaths each year in the United States, about the same number as persons who die in car accidents. About two-thirds of gun deaths are suicides, and about one-third are homicides.

The US Catholic Bishops of our Conference have historically supported common sense measures of gun policy to address the violence, including:

- **A ban on assault weapons;**
- **Universal background checks;**
- **A federal gun trafficking bill;**
- **Regulations on sales of handguns;**
- **Improved mental health interventions;**
- **Safety measures; and**
- **An honest assessment of violent images and experiences in our society.**

In addition to what we have supported prior to 2019, two policy responses with strong evidence behind them are extreme risk protection orders ("ERPOs" or "red flag laws") and licensing handguns. It would make sense to support these, as there is strong evidence that ERPOs will significantly impact the gun suicide rate, and that licensing handguns would have a very large impact on both gun homicides and suicides. Research suggests that for every 10-20 ERPOs issued, one life is saved. Another study found ERPO laws contribute to a 7.5% reduction in gun suicide.

Regarding handguns, beginning with the statement "Handgun Violence: A Threat to Life" in 1975, and on several occasions after that, including in the conference-wide pastoral letter

"Responsibility, Rehabilitation, and Restoration: A Catholic Perspective on Crime and Criminal Justice," the bishops of our Conference have argued that handguns may be accessible to law enforcement and military, and that civilians

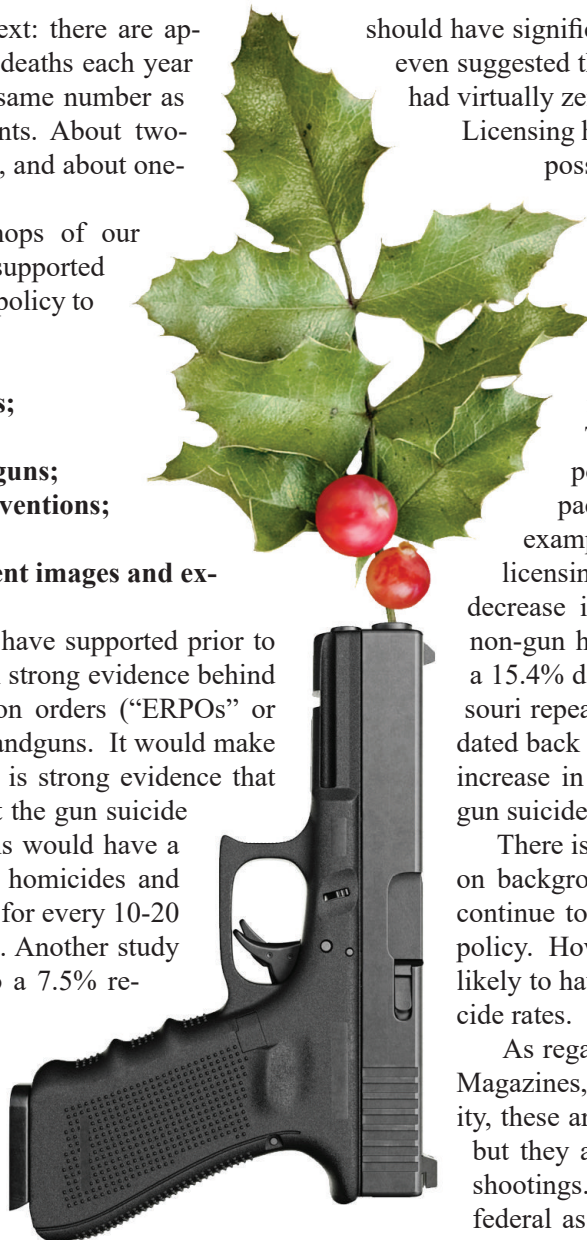
should have significantly restricted access. The bishops have even suggested that society would be better off if civilians had virtually zero access to handguns.

Licensing handguns—or any guns—is a political impossibility at the federal level at present, but is being adopted more in the states and may be worth taking a position to encourage consideration by state Catholic conferences. The 1975 statement on handgun violence actually did support handgun licensing, but we have not discussed it as much in recent years. This has the strongest research, of any gun policy, suggesting it would have a large impact on gun homicides and suicides. For example, after Connecticut adopted a handgun licensing law in the mid-90s, they saw a 40% decrease in gun homicides over ten years (while non-gun homicides stayed at the same levels), and a 15.4% decrease in gun suicides. By contrast, Missouri repealed a handgun licensing law in 2007 that dated back to the 1920s, and they experienced a 25% increase in gun homicides and a 16.1% increase in gun suicides.

There is also a possibility of bipartisan agreement on background checks at the federal level, and we continue to encourage closing the loopholes on this policy. However, the research indicates that it is less likely to have a large impact on gun homicide or suicide rates.

As regards Assault Weapons and Large Capacity Magazines, although receiving a great deal of publicity, these are used in a minority of criminal assaults, but they are used frequently in the deadliest mass shootings. Our Conference actively supported the federal assault weapon ban that was in place from 1994 to 2004, which banned certain types of rifles as well as several forms of large capacity magazines. However, that law contained several weaknesses that allowed manufacturers to change features of certain firearms to avoid the ban.

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It should also be noted that other interventions may be worth considering, such as using Catholic institutional resources for place-based interventions and amending the ethical investment guidelines to include divestment from gun manufacturers, especially those that make handguns, assault-weapons or semi-automatic rifles, and large capacity magazines.

As a Conference and as a Church, we should also concentrate on specifically Catholic approaches to address this problem, in ways that reflect our Spirituality and Social Teaching. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* notes, human life is sacred, and we need to address the threat to life posed by gun violence with the full strength of our tradition.

At the heart of this epidemic, there is a shooter. This shooter somehow, in some way, turned inwards on pain, or isolation, or illusions, that it became possible to become desensitized to others, losing all empathy.

Once again, the *Catechism* identifies a spiritual crisis we face, that causes us to do violence to peace. Anger and hatred are often at the root of violence. What we need to be looking for are the early signs of self-inwardness and loss of empathy. As a society, we have become less and less empathetic ourselves – a clear sign that, somehow, we all are becoming dangerous. The loss of empathy is a sign that the Lord himself saw in each of us, and one of the reasons He died for us on the cross – to show us what genuine empathy, genuine love for others, truly looks like. Genuine empathy is the entryway into the commandment to love thy neighbor and to abide in peace.

This peace is one that the world alone cannot bring. To end the violence, we, as individuals and as a people, need to practice empathy. In the words of Saint Paul, we need to “have among [ourselves] the same attitude that is also [ours] in Christ Jesus” (Phil 2:5). The same Christ who, “because of the great love he had for us” (Eph 2:4) did die for us all, “so that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised” (2 Cor 5:15).

That is the kind of empathy our country needs to restore in all her people. And it starts with us. It starts with each of us looking out for those who are on the peripheries of our society, those who seem to be isolated and angry, and welcoming them back into the fold so they can be healed by the love of others.

One area that is often raised is mental health. About 10 million Americans struggle with serious mental illness, and about 3 million of those are untreated. It would be good for the health of our society to have greater access to men-

tal health treatment. But the research does not support the notion that persons with mental illness are necessarily more prone to violence than the general population. Where there is a strong link with mental illness and gun violence is suicide. Whereas only about 4% of homicides involve a known mental illness, about 50% of suicides do each year. The research shows that if persons in a suicidal crisis can be denied access to guns, the odds of saving their lives dramatically increase, even if they attempt suicide by other means.

Similarly, there is strong evidence that safe gun storage (either in a safe or with a gun lock) significantly decreases the risk of gun violence, especially suicide. In addition, the large majority of school shootings occur when the student gains access to his parents' guns. Studies indicate, however, that only about half of gun owners store their guns safely in the home. Education campaigns can be effective here. With the Church's community convening capacity in parishes, schools, hospitals, and charities, it may be helpful to provide education on the safe storage of guns, particularly in light of the safety of children in the home and on the avoidance of suicide.

Catholic schools may also wish to evaluate the role they can play in anticipating and lowering violence among students. Catholic schools may wish to conduct further research on the threat assessment model and how they can apply it in their school. Catholic parishes can offer training on these and other models of providing for gun safety and mobilizing our communities for action.

Our Conference will continue to support measures that control the sale and use of firearms, that make guns safer,

that provide for sensible regulations of handguns, and that limit assault weapons. Public opinion polls show overwhelming support for many of these policies, such as universal background checks and extreme risk protection orders. Even something somewhat more controversial like licensing handguns has large majority support, and is supported by a clear majority of gun owners.

At this moment, even in the midst of divisions in our politics, we have opportunities to promote thoughtful legislation both at the federal and state levels that will save lives. In addition, our institutions have tremendous presence in local communities, and we have research that can help inform how to build programs to intervene locally and reduce violence. Please reflect on these concerns and add your voice to the way in which our Church may creatively respond to this great challenge.

Advent Communal Penance Service

Saturday,
December 18, 2021 AT
2:00 P.M.

Begin the Celebration
of Christmas
in the right frame of mind.

All Things Considered

A significant loss from last Summer's flood would be the entire contents of the religious education and pastoral ministry offices and tons of office supplies, and furnishings.

We had just consolidated the inventory of gift items such as the Rosaries from the centennial, cookbooks, cherubs and plaques, just in time to be wiped out – along with our remaining inventory of Oysterfest T-shirts, glassware, etc. The 75th anniversary posters done for us by Baltizar Korab and the Ambrosian Award metals done for us by Addie Bethune were also lost. So if you have one of these old artifacts, note that it just increased in rarity. Except for memorial brick pavers, don't count on Christmas shopping at St. Ambrose this year.

Everything we had in storage in the rectory, including the DePrato Nativity set that came to us from St. Philip's Parish, and numerous vestments were wrecked. Metalware candlesticks from the church, just back from refinishing, will need to be refinished again. 100 years of *supplemental* marriage records (the actual sacramental register is kept in a water and fireproof safe on the mail floor) were sent out to be freeze dried and microfilmed – a process not covered by insurance and I can't hazard a guess what this might cost in the long run.

While office repairs move forward slowly, there is genuine excitement in the rectory that the main boiler is scheduled to be delivered any day now! The business office and my living quarters have independent heating systems, but that only covers a small fraction of the parish house. We know that we need to shut down the rectory completely for an overhaul of the damaged electrical system. We hopefully can postpone this until after the holidays.

It would be at this time of year that we would begin selling this year's vintage of St. Ambrose honey produced by the bees on our property. Since honey has no expiration date, we carefully reserved for posterity a small inventory from each year that we have had hives. All this got contaminated and had to be pitched. The equipment for processing the honey was also deemed unusable. And of course, we lost the ARK kitchen which was the location for the honey extraction and bottling.

The flood and weeks of heavy rains did serious damage to all the bee colonies in the area. It was something called "Hive Wash Out." Our apiarists, George Chapman and Robert Pangborn are giving our stressed hives a year off. There will be no honey harvest for us this winter – leaving it all for the bees.

I've focused on the rectory losses. There are much larger losses to the church building. The ARK, its contents and finishes are still being assessed as are the church systems. Now, I'm starting to hear from the insurance adjusters that "full replacement value" may not actually mean that.

In the great scheme of things, none of these things matter when it comes to the mission of the Church. So, we can't get bogged down in bringing the parish back to running speed following the pandemic – as if it is over yet! The sacraments, education and works of charity are essential to who we are and why we are here. All the other stuff just makes those tasks easier. We've done without them before and grew the mission. We will do so again.

So stick with us. Nothing helps the parish better than a return to worship and fellowship. Last week's outdoor "Night in Bethlehem" was an exciting example of how we can achieve successful outreach just with a tent! Come to think of it, Jesus didn't have a commercial kitchen to advance his ministry and managed to feed a lot of hungry people.

The annual collection for Pregnancy Aid is lagging at this point in time. We are a pro-life Church and that means committing ourselves to caring for life after birth and not just in some theological abstract. We're asking that you direct-ship your gifts to Pregnancy Aid to our office and include that designation somewhere on the label. I can't imagine what it might be like to raise a baby under these brutal post-flood, and pandemic conditions. Let's give moms of newborns less to worry about.

Our Infrastructure Committee, which attempts to mitigate or avoid flooding issues for our campus and surrounding neighborhood, met for the first time last week. The agenda included identifying the key jurisdictions, such as The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), The City of Grosse Pointe Park (GPP), and the Detroit Water and Sewage Department (DWSD).

Focus 1 – What "wet weather resources" are already in place?

Focus 2 – What went wrong on June 25-26?

Focus 3 – What steps are being taken to handle the next big wet weather event/how do we prepare?

These meetings under the chairmanship of Rory Bolger will resume in the new year.

I have been informed by the Moderator of our new Family of Parishes, Fr. James Bilot, that in February, meetings will begin relative to the formation of the Archbishop's reorganization plan. Our family model including St. Paul on the Lake, St. Matthew, St. Clare of Montefalco and ourselves is to commence at the beginning of the 2022 fiscal year in July.

As I reported to you a few weeks ago, the Archbishop has allowed me to continue to work past the normal retirement age primarily to get the parish functioning in pre-flood condition. Please pray and work with me on that. We'll face the Family stuff later.

TRP



Name

Home Phone

Work Phone

Email Address

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

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

The Buzz

Gaudete! Rejoice, everyone, Advent is half over. So let's make the most of these remaining two weeks . . . but do so in joy! Even though the first day of winter (Tuesday, the 21st at 10:59 am) – the shortest daytime of the year (6 hrs. 12 mins. shorter than the summer solstice) – is fast approaching, let the vision of the Lord's coming today brighten your life. And it has been particularly dark out there for a while now. So, be alert and welcome Christ each day. Then, be a reflection of that light for all you meet. If we don't do it, who will?!



One of the finer points of the Catholic liturgical calendar concerning Advent gets lost in the growing volume of "Christmassy" music, decor, etc. The majority of this season – from November 28 through this Thursday, Dec. 16 – the readings and thematic emphasis is NOT on the first coming of Jesus as a child to Mary and Joseph. It's much more about the coming of the adult Lord to the people of His time . . . and as risen Lord to us in our time.

The liturgical shift won't begin till this Friday the 17th. Our religious thinking for the season needs to be oriented around WHY He was born, before we look again at all the details around WHEN He was born. If we neglect the major first portion of Advent, the second segment along with the rest of the Christmas season will be thinner and weaker than they're supposed to be. WHY do you think for years there has been a slogan proclaiming: "Jesus is the reason for the season"?! My suggestion to real people of faith is that even when you hear that slogan, still ask and answer the question WHY!

May you have a robust and healthy rest-of-Advent, and a tremendously rich and deep Christmas with Emmanuel!



Starting on Friday, another fine point in Catholic liturgy marks the shift in the season. It is the use for seven days of what are known as "O antiphons". Each day a different biblically-based title for Jesus is used at mass and in the Liturgy of the Hours. If you pray specially during this season as a family, or even alone – perhaps at a meal or in lighting an advent wreath – join in addressing Christ with the whole Church: Fri.(17th) - "O Wisdom", Sat.(18th) - "O Sacred Lord (Adonai)", Sun.(19th) - "O Flower of Jesse's Root", Mon.(20th) - "O Key of David", Tues.(21st) - "O Radiant Dawn", Wed.(22nd) - "O King of All Nations", Thurs.(23rd) - "O Emmanuel". Meditate on them with Christ. (If that's too easy an exercise, ask me how to take it to the next level!)



Next Saturday, December 18th at 2:00 P.M., we have a communal opportunity to confront the darkness of sin in our own personal lives and make room for the fullness of Christ's Light as we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with one another. Come and make ready a big, big room in your heart for His incarnation.



Except that it's an Advent Sunday, today, December 12 would ordinarily be celebrated as the Feastday of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Pope St. John Paul II honored Mary under this title as Mother of the Americas. He intended to promote the unity in faith of all peoples in the Western Hemisphere – South, Central and North America – who have the same mother given to us by Christ. Poverty, politics, jobs, race and immigration issues, etc. have been ganging up more and more to divide us. Let's spend some time today in prayer with Mary for all her children – our brothers and sisters – that the hope of Christ's reign of love may overcome all evils and bring us closer together for the benefit of all.

Chuck Dropiewski

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 2021 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.

Pregnancy Aid by Mail

For 28 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.

Our "Tree" was lost in the flood, and 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 – take a pass on the gift tags – and accept mailed packages, too.

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 is 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" somewhere on the label.

The Pregnancy Aid Society has a wish list – things that are practical, educational and essential. All these items are part of an inventory from which Pregnancy Aid draws all year long. Your gifts would best be here for transport by December 28th.

Online Gifts Will Be Matched

Are you thinking about signing up for recurring electronic giving at St. Ambrose? If you are, now is the time – your new gift (or if you currently donate through Givelify or Simply-Said/CFCU and move your recurring gift to ParishSoft) will earn matching donations from ParishSoft.

For every new recurring gift added between now and December 31, 2021, ParishSoft will match each gift, up to \$50, with a maximum match of \$1,000 per organization. To be eligible for the matching gift, donors must set up more than one installment and the first recurring gift must be transacted by December 31, 2021.

In the past month, 14 St. Ambrose parishioners have either started recurring giving or moved their existing recurring giving to ParishSoft, resulting in a total of \$505.00 in donations toward the matching goal of \$1,000.

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 - 8:30 & 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

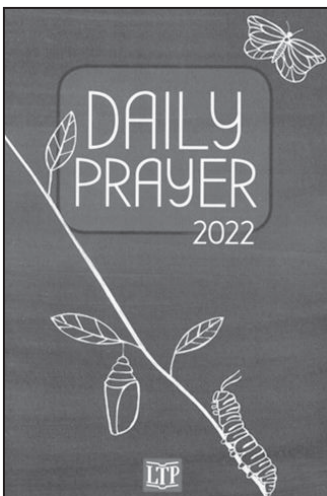
Religious Education: (313) 332-5633

Pastoral Ministry: (313) 332-5631

Ark Scheduling: (313) 822-2814

Parish Website: stambrosechurch.net

Pray Every Day



Could you be searching for a fresh new way to pray every day of the year? Daily Prayer 2022 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, newlyweds 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 2022, call the rectory office at 822-2814.

Liturgy Schedule

Monday, December 13

St. Lucy, virgin & martyr

Tuesday, December 14

St. John of the Cross, priest & doctor

8:30 a.m. Victims of Gun Violence

Wednesday, December 15

Weekday 3rd week in Advent

Thursday, December 16

Weekday 3rd week in Advent

7:00 - Mass - John Witherell

Friday, December 17

Weekday 3rd week in Advent

12:00 - Mass - Bishop John Quinn

Richard Morton

Saturday, December 18

Weekday 3rd week in Advent

2:00 - Communal Penance service

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

Sunday, December 19

Fourth Sunday in Advent

8:30 - Mass - For All People

11:15 - Mass - For All People

Scriptures for the 3rd Week in Advent

December 13

Nm 24: 2-7, 15-17a

Ps 25: 4-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9

Mt 21: 23-27

December 14

Zep 3: 1-2, 9-13

Ps 34: 2-7, 5-7, 17-19, 23

Mt 21: 28-32

December 15

Is 45: 6b-5, 18, 21b-25

Ps 85: 5ab, 10-14

Lk 7: 18b-21

December 16

Is 54: 1-10

Ps 30: 2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b

Lk 7: 24-30

December 17

Gn 49: 2, 8-10

Ps 72: 1-4b, 7-8

Mt 1: 1-17

December 18

Jer 23: 5-8

Ps 72: 1-2, 12-13, 18-19

Mt 1: 18-25

December 19

Mi 5: 1-4a

Ps 80: 2-3, 15-16, 18-19

Heb 10: 5-10

Lk 1: 39-45

The Fourth Sunday in Advent December 18th-19th

Saturday Mass at 4:00 p.m. (Broadcast online on Sunday starting at 8:00 a.m.)

Sunday Masses are celebrated at 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

There is no limit on seating capacity – but distancing is still required.

Contact tracing and temperature taking are no longer required. Wearing face masks at St. Ambrose is asked of the vaccinated and unvaccinated.

To participate electronically, go to: facebook.com/stambroseparish where the Saturday liturgy will be available for viewing starting at 8 a.m. on Sunday.

For specifics on the law of Sunday Obligation go to:

aod.org/comehometohope-dispensation

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

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

On Sunday, December 5, 2021

in envelopes we received \$4,655.00

in the loose collection \$964.00

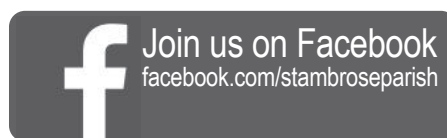
in electronic donations \$3,651.75

for a total of \$9,280.75

Under budget for the week..... \$819.25

Number of envelopes mailed 627

Number of envelopes used 41



Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Karen Culver, 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 Scopel, Jackie Walkowski, Kristen Kingzett, Maria Simcina, Brian Tague, Sharif Hannan, Shirley Whelan, Anne Purvis, Jerry Gutowski, Kevin O'Connor, Albina Checki, Judy Sivanov, Matthew Brown, Ernie Ament, Charlie Merz, and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with COVID-19.

Our Dead

A funeral liturgy was celebrated for **Priscilla McEachern**, 71, on Friday, December 3rd. She passed away after a lengthy illness.

Priscilla was a long-time resident of Grosse Pointe Park, where she and her husband, Donald, raised their family. She enjoyed spending time with her family and had a variety of interests.

She is survived by her husband, and her daughter, Monica Lewis. She will be missed by the rest of her family and friends. Please keep Priscilla and her family in your prayers.

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.



Mass Times When Traveling

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 and thecatholicdirectory.com make it easy to find a mass.

The Christmas Season at St. Ambrose

THE FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 18, 2021 at 4 p.m.

Sunday, December 19, 2021 at
8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

VIGIL OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Friday, December 24, 2021,
Mass at 4 p.m.

FEAST OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Saturday, December 25, 2021
Midnight Mass at 12 a.m. ((•))

Mass on Christmas Day
at 8:30 a.m. and at 11:15 a.m.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Sunday, December 26, 2021,
Mass at 8:30 a.m. ((•)) and 11:15 a.m.

NEW YEAR'S EVE & DAY

Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God
Friday, December 31, 2021 at 4 p.m. ((•))

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 1, 2022, Mass at 4 p.m.
Sunday, January 2, 2022,
Mass at 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 8, 2022,
Mass at 1:30 p.m. – Confirmations
Mass at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 9, 2022,
Mass at 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

**((•)) - Service will be livestreamed online



Many people in our neighborhood are still in need of extra help at Christmas this year. However, due to Covid-19, we must once again make changes to our usual Adopt-a-Family program. We know many of you would love to help a family at Christmas if you could do it in a safe way. We would like to encourage those of you who have helped in years past to do so again but in a different way. What we could use is a means to provide families with food and toys or clothes for their children.

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 no later than Friday, December 10. 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 as soon as possible 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 provide food and gifts for the children. Thanks for your generosity. The *St. Ambrose Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society*

Special Federal Tax Break This Year

Charitable giving during the holiday season this year takes on a new, happier meaning when it comes to tax deductions. Typically, most people aren't able to get a tax break when they donate money to a charity if they're claiming the standard deduction on their federal income tax returns. And nearly 9 out of 10 taxpayers are taking that standard deduction these days.


Yet pandemic relief in Congress created a special but temporary break for giving money to a qualified charity that applies to people who do not itemize. A married couple taking the standard deduction is allowed to claim up to \$600 for cash contributions made to qualifying charities in 2021, if filing a joint return. It's a temporary break, which is set to expire on Jan. 1. A single individual, including married individuals filing separate returns, can claim a deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions.

If some of this sounds familiar, it is, somewhat. On 2020 federal income tax returns, cash donations of up to \$300 made to qualifying organizations were treated as deductible for those who didn't itemize.

The difference this year: Those who file married filing jointly are allowed a direct deduction of up to a combined total of \$600. This can give you an extra incentive to stop shopping for some not-so-perfect gifts and instead opt to donate money to a charity that has a special meaning for a special someone on your gift list.

Allemon's Landscape Center
Propane • Kerosene • Firewood • Garden Statuary
Screened Topsoil • Peat • Shrubs • Trees
- PARTY RENTALS -
17727 Mack at University
313-882-9085


Patrick O'Hara, CPA
Conrad Koski, CPA
- Income Tax Services -
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www.OHaraCPA.net

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Sat: 7am-5pm (will stay open after Mass) Sun: 7am-6pm
15215 Kercheval St., Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230

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