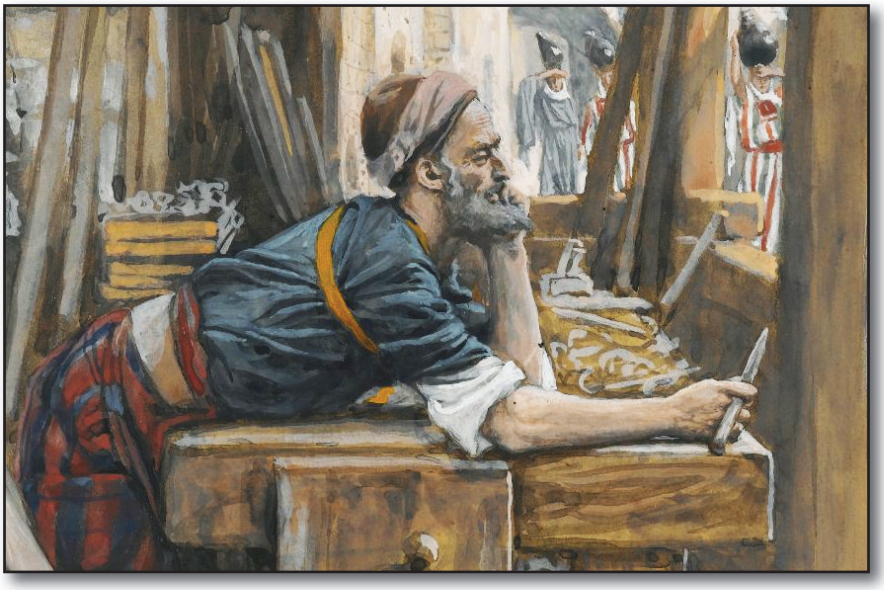
St. Ambrose Parish

MARCH 20, 2022
BEEHIVE

The Anxiety of St. Joseph



The bible tells next to nothing about St. Joseph — his upbringing, how he met Mary, or even his age. The gospel writers are silent about all of this, and Joseph himself never utters a word they recorded. He is effectively the silent partner in the Holy Family: a figure who works, dreams, and cares for his wife and son, then vanishes from the New Testament. As a result, one of Christianity's most iconic figures is also a mystery — a mystery who is nonetheless intimately connected to our modern challenges.

The Church officially reveres him as the patron saint of workers, of fathers, and of a happy death. But I like to think of him as a patron for other causes that speak profoundly to us now. After all, Joseph dealt with the same crises that millions of families face today: government-sponsored terrorism, forced migration, and the pressure of leading a family in distress. Like no other saint, he can help us respond to these challenges with the steadfast faith and courage that he showed.

A Man on a Journey

Not once, but three times, the Gospels describe Joseph as a man on a journey. First, he sets out for Bethlehem with Mary, his pregnant wife, for a government mandated census. Then, with their newborn baby, they flee Bethlehem for Egypt. Later, in calmer political times, Joseph takes his family to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of Passover. Much of what we know of Joseph's life, then, is an odyssey—heading from place to place, often going great distances to fulfill the will of God.

It is that middle journey to Egypt that has such a powerful hold on my imagination. King Herod, terrified by reports of a newborn king living in Bethlehem, has ordered the death of all the boys in that city. And so one morning, the families of Bethlehem awoke to hoofbeats outside the door and the metallic sound of swords being drawn from their sheaths. The frantic and terrified cries of mothers and children followed. It was this ancient form of state-sponsored terrorism that compelled Joseph to escape with his family from Judea to Egypt — a 200-mile journey across a desolate desert.

How many people today are compelled to leave home and comfort to make a similar journey? The current United Nations global estimate is that there were around 281 million international migrants in the world in 2020, which equates to 3.6 per cent of the global population. According to Amnesty International, there are currently an estimated 25.9 million refugees around the world, the highest ever recorded. Half of today's refugees are children.

More than 3 million refugees have left the Ukraine in the last three weeks. As many as 4 million people could be forced to flee violence in Ukraine, the United Nations refugee agency has said. In addition, 1.4 million of today's especially vulnerable refugees urgently need resettlement. There are Central American migrants leaving behind spouses and children to find opportunities in the north; Syrian and Lebanese families taking dangerous voyages to Europe only to be confined in crowded camps; persecuted families in Eritrea and the Horn of Africa fleeing to neighboring Ethiopia to find nothing but drought. There are literally millions of Josephs in our time.

Continued on page 2...

The Anxiety of St. Joseph

Continued from page 1

For these people forced to leave their homes, as well as for each of us on our journey, Joseph stands as an example of resolute trust. He conveys the same message carried to him by an angel: Do not be afraid (Matthew 1:20). Without saying a word, Joseph offers steadfastness, surety, and hope. He was able to cross the distance and keep his family safe. As we wonder how, we can imagine God walking with Joseph, guiding him at critical points and giving him courage and comfort. Having made such a perilous journey, Joseph shows us that God will walk with each of us too, wherever our journey takes us.

Patron for Victims of Terrorism

The terror and religious persecution that made Joseph a refugee continue today. Christian churches, synagogues and Arab mosques alike are being burned and bombed. Innocent children are being lost. From Europe to the Americas, innumerable families know what it's like to live under the shadow of death. They have seen small caskets carried on the shoulders of weeping fathers. They have looked into the vacant, shell-shocked eyes of mothers who cannot put their sorrow into words. In many ways, these are the descendants of the families of Bethlehem.

St. Joseph can be their advocate and intercessor. He weeps with them, grieves with them, and prays for them. He knows the only thing that prevented his family from suffering the same fate was the voice of an angel — and his own faith-filled surrender to God's plan. His example of quiet strength can serve as an encouragement to all of us as we struggle to maintain hope in times of difficulty and personal pain. This simple man of modest means understood, more than we may realize, what it is to care for a family in a challenging or dangerous or violent time. Whenever we ask God to comfort the grieving, lift up the downtrodden, and console the terrified, Joseph joins us as an empathetic and compassionate intercessor.

Friend for the Anxious

In the late nineteenth century, wealthy Parisians sought after the services of realist portrait painter James Tissot, a celebrated French artist. One day, while doing research for a painting, Tissot stepped inside a church and was deeply moved by what he saw. This profound religious experience convinced him to devote the rest of his life to spiritual themes. The Brooklyn Museum houses many of his sketches and watercolors, among them a surprising portrait of St. Joseph.

Tissot paints Joseph leaning heavily over his carpenter's table. His shop is cramped, with tools and wood shavings everywhere. The windows look out onto the streets of Nazareth, where townspeople go about their business. But in the middle stands Joseph, his bearded chin in hand, deep in thought. The painting's title says it all: The Anxiety of Saint Joseph.

We rarely think of him that way. Yet what we see in Tissot's painting is a man who knew worry and uncertainty. Joseph found himself unexpectedly about to become a father, under mysterious circumstances no less. He must have wondered how he would support this suddenly growing family, as well as how he would explain what had happened to a doubting, judgmental world.

The anxiety of Joseph is the anxiety of any nervous expectant father. It is the anxiety of anyone facing a future that seems overwhelming or a mystery that seems unsolvable or a job that seems too daunting. His worries are familiar to anyone who has ever felt that the world's burdens were too heavy to bear. This is why we can all relate to him. In moments of worry and uncertainty, Joseph holds onto faith, hope, and trust. His example shows us how to do the same.

"Do Not Be Afraid."

This Lent, as many of us struggle with how to do God's will or trust in his plan, St. Joseph shows us the way. For Joseph, as well as for us, the way starts by following the angel's call not to fear. God helped Joseph navigate his burdens. He didn't take them away; he just showed Joseph that he was trustworthy.

Joseph, in turn, listened to God's promptings and courageously followed them. He trusted God and stayed faithful in prayer even when his work and home life were turned upside down. His love for Jesus and Mary compelled him to keep trying. In the end, his courage, trust, and steadfast love became the foundation for Jesus to grow up and fulfill the will of the Father.

We, too, can create openings for Jesus this Lent. As we try our best to follow God's will and love our families, we can trust that Joseph is interceding for us. This time of year, remember that the light of Jesus is growing brighter. God's presence is closer. If you have any doubts about that, just think of Joseph, the great silent partner of the Holy Family, model of courage and perseverance in troubled times. Hold onto the words of the angel that echoed down to him — and to us — as the great defining message of hope: Do not be afraid.

By Deacon Greg Kandra who serves in the Diocese of Brooklyn. He is also an editor for the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) and blogs at Aleteia.org.

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All Things Considered

Archbishop Vigneron sent his priests this note last Monday.

Brothers,

I wish to inform you that I have tested positive for Covid-19 this morning, March 14th. I am fully vaccinated and boosted, and grateful to report that my symptoms are very mild.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my prayers for members of our community who have been affected by this virus – particularly those who have died, suffered serious illness, or lost loved ones. I pray also for healthcare workers who continue to tirelessly offer their compassionate service and healing to those who need it. We entrust them and our entire Archdiocese into the loving care of Our Lady of Lourdes, patroness of the sick.

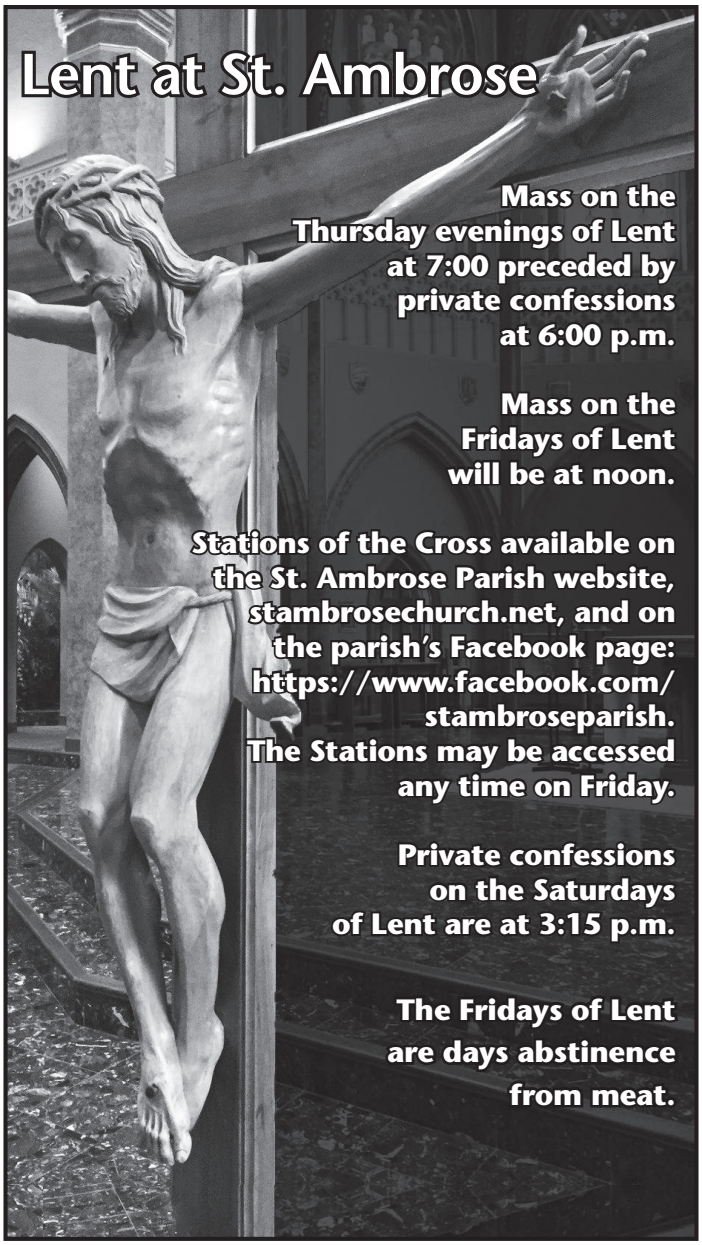
We've been informed that the Archbishop is resting and doing well. Let us join together in praying for his full and quick recovery on behalf of all in our community who have been affected by Covid.

✠✠✠

It would not be the first time that we've been tempted to believe that we are on the "other side" of the Covid pandemic only to see a new variant of the disease emerge. The vaccines have been effective so far in protection.

Even as Covid cases and deaths have continued to decline in the United States, there are some worrisome developments around the world. After more than two years of mostly fighting off Covid, Hong Kong has become the world's worst hot spot. The main problem, as in so many other places, is vaccine skepticism.

Europe has often been a few weeks ahead of the U.S. with Covid trends — and cases are now rising in Britain, Germany, Italy and some other parts of Europe. The main cause appears to be an even more contagious version of Omicron, known as BA.2.



This makes it difficult for us to come up with a policy regarding mask-wearing and distancing here for Masses and gatherings. Over the last three weeks, we have no longer insisted on masks, but overwhelmingly the congregation continues to opt for them. I support that.

Our present parish policy will be tied to the new Center for Disease Control metric which localizes the danger in a more specific location. Here in Wayne County we are currently registering as LOW risk. Should that change, we'll request that masks go back on for everybody.

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Following the flood of last Summer we were approached by some businesses in the area to join in a class action lawsuit against the Great Lakes Water Authority/Detroit Water and Sewerage Department. We declined.

I stated at that time that we had to take our cue from the Archdiocese. More than 20 of our parishes sustained water damages as a result of that weather episode. St. Ambrose may very well be at the top of that list.

Several AoD parishes and schools (although not us) have recently received a notice that they are included as plaintiffs in just such a lawsuit. Our AoD Department of Finance and Administration sought guidance from legal counsel. That guidance recommends that the Archdiocese of Detroit and its parishes and schools remain in the class at this time. That makes some sense inasmuch as all these parishes (and we) are self-insured. This means multiple millions in claims against "our fund" in what might have been a situation that could have been mitigated if not avoided.

I hope that we can continue to have a non adversarial working relationship with GLWA/DWS. Finding a solution is the most important goal for our Infrastructure Committee. We await schematics of the existing water systems tangent to our properties from the Cities of Grosse Pointe Park and Detroit so we can see what we are dealing with underground.

TRP

Lenten Observances

• Lent is the liturgical season which runs from Ash Wednesday until the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.

• Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of *total* fast and abstinence from meat.

• All the Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence from meat.

• The **Law of Abstinence** from meat binds persons from the completion of their 14th year — from the day after their 14th birthday, throughout life.

• The **Law of Abstinence** forbids the use of meat, but not eggs, milk or products or condiments made of animal fat. Permissible are soups flavored with meat, meat gravy and sauces.

• The **Law of Fasting** binds persons from the completion of their 18th year to the beginning of their 60th year, i.e., from the day after their 59th birthday.

• The **Law of Fasting** allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and evening, observing as far as quantity and quality are concerned — approved local custom. The order of meals is optional; i.e. the full meal may be taken in the evening instead of at midday. Also: (1) the quantity of food taken at the two lighter meals should not exceed the quantity taken at the full meal. (2) the drinking of ordinary liquids does not break the fast.

• In keeping with the spirit and meaning of the Lenten fast, Catholics are encouraged to observe the Good Friday fast through Holy Saturday and until after the celebration of the Easter Vigil.

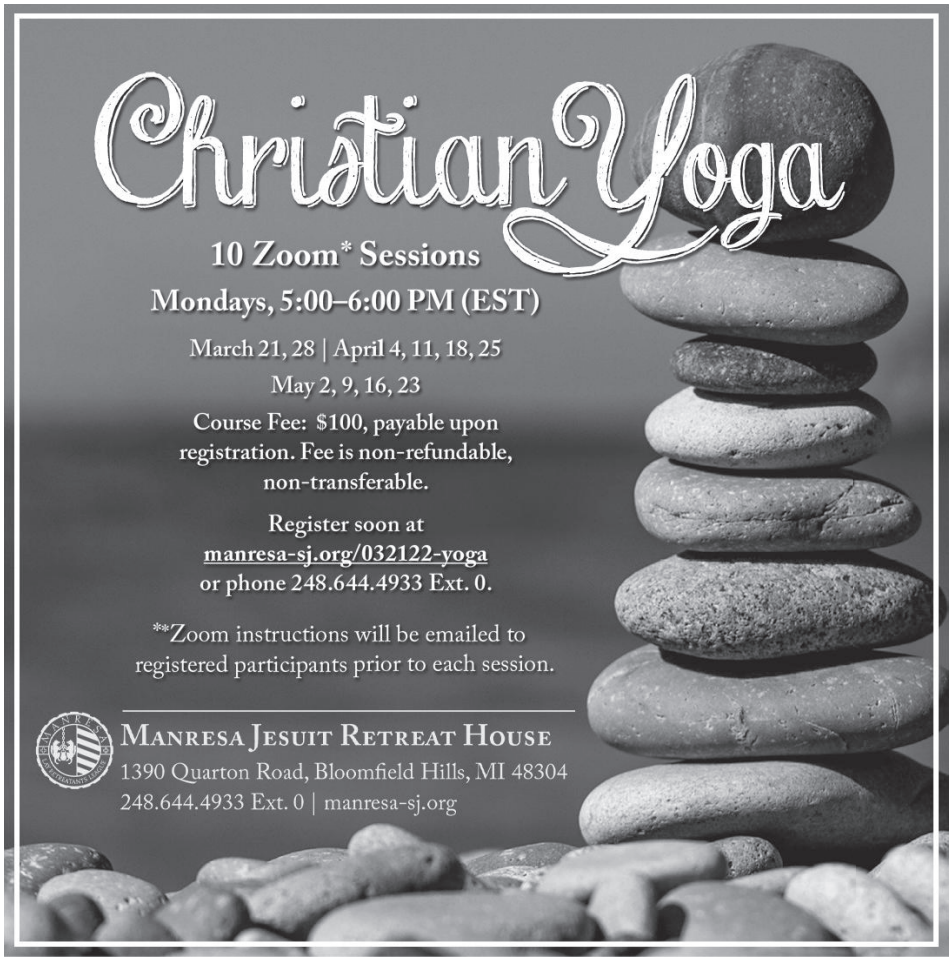
Please join St. Paul on the Lake for

Stations of the Cross

All are welcome on Fridays evenings during Lent, at St. Paul on the Lake. Bring your family for:

- A simple supper, prepared by the Knights of Columbus from 5:30-6:45pm in the cafeteria.
- A free-will offering will be accepted.
- Stations of the Cross, 7:00-7:30pm in the church
- Reflections by Seminarian Charlie Giroux; 7:30-8:00 pm in the church, on Lenten practices and how they help us live the cardinal virtues, from "The Art of Living" by Edward Sri. A limited number of free books are available from the parish office.

If you have questions or would like to reserve a book, please contact Anne Graves at (313) 885-8855 or agraves@stpaulonthelake.org



Faith Formation Station

"Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit You have taught the hearts of your faithful. In the same Spirit help us to rejoice in what is right and always rejoice in your consolation."

Just as our newly confirmed religious education students shared their inspirational prayers to the Holy Spirit with us earlier this year, a new group of young men and women have begun their formal preparation and discernment for the sacrament.

The current eighth grade students and their parents met in church last week for a sacramental preparation session. Confirmation preparation involves learning, sharing, fellowship, spiritual growth, and some fun, too. During this faith journey, the students will be given the opportunity to learn more about their Catholic faith and what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: "Preparation for Confirmation should aim at leading the Christian toward a more intimate union with Christ and more lively familiarity with the Holy Spirit...to this end, catechesis (preparation) for Confirmation should strive to awaken a sense of belonging to the Church of Christ, the universal Church as well as the parish community."

Our goal is to be true to this statement of preparation for Confirmation, so that by the end of this process our students will have a good understanding of who God is and how the Catholic Church helps us to know, love, and serve God. It is our hope that by the end of the Confirmation program students will:

- Develop a more personal relationship with Jesus Christ
- Strengthen their faith and prayer life with the help of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Become a more active, visible sign of Christ's love at home, school, and here at St. Ambrose parish through liturgical ministries, social activities, and special annual events

To that end, you will be seeing these students praying in church more often and volunteering at parish events. They will continue their faith formation studies with their classmates, parents, and catechist Daniel Clark. Outside of the classroom they will be choosing a confirmation name, a sponsor, and writing about their acts of service to their families, their community, and their church. Look for updates on their journey in future bulletin articles.

Receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation is far from the end of anyone's spiritual growth. It is another step as our faith formation students continue their lifelong process of becoming like Christ!

This new group of young people preparing for the sacrament will be writing their own prayers to the Holy Spirit that they will share with you at their Confirmation next January. In the meantime, they will continue to pray together a traditional prayer to the Holy Spirit. We invite you to pray this special prayer throughout the year and add a special intention for our new confirmation candidates: Max, Noah, Neva, Myla, Anthony, Julian, Dante, Salvatore, Connor, Elizabeth, Natalie, Aidan, Celesta, and Avery.

PROGRAM REMINDERS:

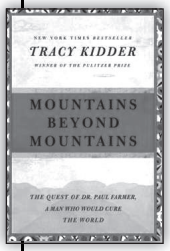
Super Service Saturday: Thank you to the Borio, Jensen and VanMarcke families who helped package Vitafood supplements for Cross Catholic Outreach at St. Paul on Saturday 3/19/22. My kids and I enjoyed working alongside everyone; what a wonderful project! Check out the photos on our parish website.

Circle of Grace: All our students will be participating in the AoD's Safe Environments Program Circle of Grace this Sunday 3/20/22.

Spring Break: We do NOT have religious education classes over the GPPSS Spring Break. There will be mass but no class on 3/27 and 4/3. We will return to class on Palm Sunday 4/10.

Kelly Woolums

Marcellina's Book Club



Mountains Beyond Mountains takes us from Harvard to Haiti, Peru, Cuba, and Russia as Dr. Paul Farmer changes minds and practices through his dedication to the philosophy that "the only real nation is humanity" - a philosophy that is embodied in the small public charity he founded, **Partners In Health.** At the heart of this book is the example of a life based on hope, and on an understanding of the truth of the Haitian proverb "Beyond mountains there are mountains": as you solve one problem, another problem presents itself, and so you go on and try to solve that one too.

The author, Tracy Kidder, also graduated from Harvard. He has won the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, the Robert F. Kennedy Award and many other literary prizes. The book and its audio are available through Amazon.

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:
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

Liturgy Schedule

Monday, March 21
Weekday 3rd week of Lent
Tuesday, March 22
Weekday 3rd week of Lent
8:30 a.m. – Mass – Roger Nowicki
Wednesday, March 23
St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, bishop
Thursday, March 24
Weekday 3rd week of Lent
6:00 p.m. - Confessions
7:00 p.m. – Mass – Patricia Bonior
Friday, March 25
The Annunciation of the Lord
12:00 p.m. – Mass – Lyle Eagle; Mary Marzec
Saturday, March 26
Weekday 3rd week of Lent
11:00 – Funeral – Tim Griffin
3:00 p.m. - Confessions
4:00 p.m. – Mass – For All People
Sunday, March 27
Fourth Sunday of Lent
8:30 – Mass – For All People
11:15 – Mass – For All People

Scriptures for the 3rd week of Lent

March 21
2 Kgs 5: 1-15b
Pss 42: 2-3; 43: 3-4
Lk 4: 24-30
March 22
Dn 3: 25, 34-43
Ps 25: 4-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9
Mt 18: 21-35
March 23
Dt 4: 1, 5-9
Ps 147: 12-13, 15-16, 19-20
Mt 5: 17-19
March 24
Jer 7: 23-28
Ps 95: 1-2, 6-9
Lk 11: 14-23
March 25
Is 7: 10-14; 8: 10
Ps 40: 7-11
Heb 10: 4-10
Lk 18: 9-14
March 26
Hos 6: 1-6
Ps 51: 3-4, 18-21b
Lk 18: 9-14
March 27
Jos 5: 9a, 10-12
Ps 34: 2-7
2 Cor 5: 17-21
Lk 15: 1-2, 11-32

The Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 26th - 27th

Saturday Mass at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday Masses are celebrated at 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Under the Center for Disease Control guidance, people in counties with low or medium Covid-19 community levels no longer need to wear masks indoors unless they are immunocompromised or at "high risk" for severe Covid-19. Currently Wayne County shows a LOW level of risk. This might change week-to-week, but for the present time, St. Ambrose Parish is lifting the mandatory mask requirement for weekend masses. We will maintain it for funerals and weddings. At all community levels, the CDC recommends people get vaccinated and boosted, and get tested if they have symptoms.

To participate electronically, go to**: facebook.com/stambroseparish** or better yet, to You Tube at **www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymBGlQxUF6UqPct5xFg**

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

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

On Sunday, March 13, 2022

in envelopes we received $4,252.00
in the loose collection $3,564.00
in electronic donations $3,659.87
for a total of $11,475.87
Over budget for the week.....$1,375.87
Number of envelopes mailed 627
Number of envelopes used 51

Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Matthew Elias, Mary Martin, George Bucec, Emilie Kasper, Anna Noto Billings, Eileen O'Brien, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, Alexandra Cullen, Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Alex Billiu, Jerry Scopel, Jackie Walkowski, Maria Simcina, Brian Tague, Sharif Hannan, Shirley Whelan, Anne Purvis, Jerry Gutowski, Kevin O'Connor, Albina Checki, Judy Sivanov, Matthew Brown, Ernie Ament, Vince LoCicero, Lily Faith, Patty Freund, Karen Jordan, Janis Ramsey, Colette Gilewicz, Richard Strowger and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with Covid-19.

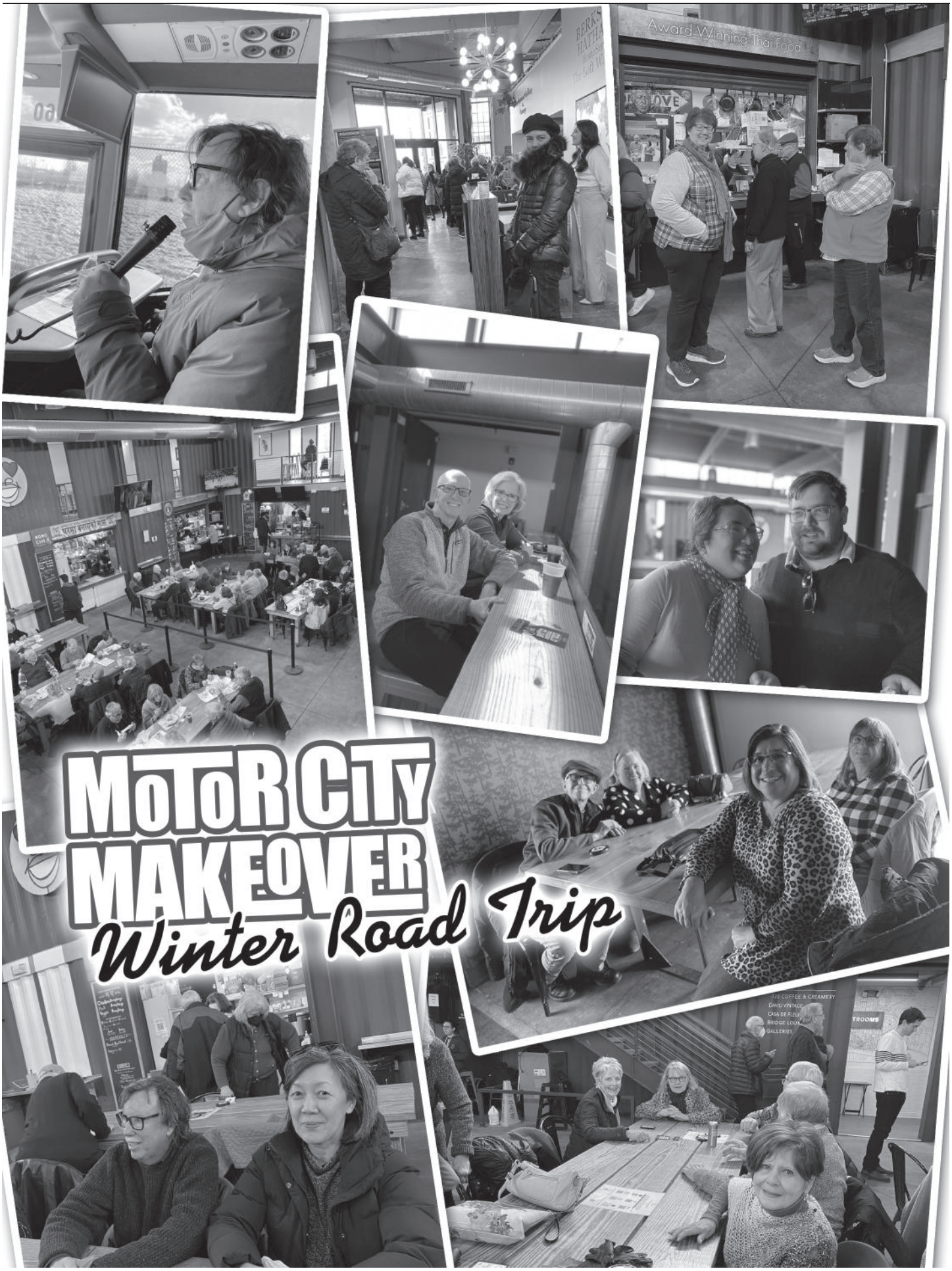
Our Dead

On March 15th, a funeral mass for **Emmanouel Jairs Evanoff** (63) was offered at St. Ambrose Parish. "Jerry" was born to Gilbert Evanoff Sr. and Amy Evanoff (Morgan) in Detroit, Michigan and was baptized into the Catholic faith in 1961 at St. Edward Church in Detroit.

Emmanouel, born with Downs Syndrome, attended special education classes within the Detroit Public School System and lived at home with family. Emmanouel had a love of music and aspired to write and produce music. He was inspired by the music of Motown and Michael Jackson. When introduced to Emmanouel you were always met with a firm handshake, and a contagious smile. He took great pride in presenting himself in a well-dressed manner. He loved his parents deeply, along with his other family members. Emmanouel enjoyed dancing, partying and traveling with them.

Emmanouel was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers Gilbert G. Evanoff Jr. and Johnnie Gammage Jr.

Emmanouel is survived by four siblings: Charlsie Johnson, Raphael Evanoff, Manasseh Evanoff and Esther Evanoff–Thomas; three nephews Ramon Martinez, Christopher Johnson and Jason Evanoff; three nieces Shamika Evanoff, Mona Lisa Ndiaye and Amy Greene and a host of other family and friends.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Please join One Voice for our:
Spring Sing Thing
One Voice is hosting a mini choir workshop for young girls going into 4th - 8th grade in the 2022-2023 school year!
Come meet the directors, learn some music skills, participate in our performance on Saturday!
This is a fun opportunity to meet new friends that share your interest in singing. Don't miss out!
Thursday April 28th 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm | Friday April 29th 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
Saturday April 30th 12:00 pm - 3:30 pm
First Christian Reformed Church | 1444 Maryland Street • Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230
Registration details at choironevoice.org | Cost $90 (Payable Via Paypal)

Love's Springtime
One Voice in concert with
Xiting Yang, Piano performing a program of
Chopin, Schumann, & Debussy
March 20th, 2022 – 4pm
CHOIRONEVOICE.ORG
ONE VOICE
$10 Admission - Tickets sold online and at the door
Our Lady Star of the Sea — 467 Fairport Rd., Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236
ARTISTIC TEAM: CAROLYN GROSS | TAMMY PALAZZOLO | BRIAN LEDUC