



Three Virtues Essential to Authentic Liturgy

I'm currently between liturgical choirs, but there is one instruction I expect to receive from my next choir director. *"Remember, it's not a performance; it's prayer."* I've heard some variation on these words many times. It doesn't matter whether I'm singing in a chant schola or gospel choir, accompanied by organ or guitar, led by a professional or a volunteer, or joined mainly by children or adults. Musical and ritual preferences vary widely in the church, but everyone knows the church is not a concert hall or theater, the ministers are not actors, and the congregation is not an audience.

We want our liturgies to be authentic prayer, not hypocritical displays of false piety or feigned enthusiasm. Yet we do perform: in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we participate in Christ's performance of the worship that glorifies God and sanctifies humanity. For this reason, Saint Benedict instructed the monks in his care to be mindful of their divine audience while praying the liturgy of the hours:

"We believe that the divine presence is everywhere and that in every place the eyes of the Lord are watching the good and the wicked. But beyond the least doubt we should believe this to be especially true when we celebrate the divine office. We must always remember, therefore, what the Prophet says: Serve the Lord with fear, and again, Sing praise wisely; and, In the presence of the angels I will sing to you. Let us consider, then, how we ought to behave in the presence of God and his angels, and let us stand to sing the psalms in such a way that our minds are in harmony with our voices."

"Minds in tune with voices" is the phrase, borrowed from Saint Benedict, that the Second Vatican Council used to describe how the assembly should perform their part in the liturgy. God's grace supplies the invitation to offer songs and prayers in the Lord's presence. *"But in order that the liturgy may be able to produce its full effects it is necessary that the faithful come to it with proper dispositions, that their minds be attuned to their voices, and that they cooperate with heavenly grace lest they receive it in vain."*

"Minds in tune with voices" still supplies a vital way to evaluate and gradually perfect the authenticity of our worship. This musical and bodily metaphor asks us to approach liturgy not just as a prescribed set of things to do but as a way of doing things that involves our whole selves.

The mind within and the voice without cooperate to perform the liturgical action in harmony with other minds and voices. Debates pitting the inward prayer of the heart against the spoken and sung prayer of the assembly miss a larger point. By harmonizing my own mind and voice, in participation that is interior and exterior, I help the church grow in harmony and mutual love.

Augustine, who knew that *"song befits the lover,"* has a beautiful sermon in which he stirs up the desire of the congregation to sing the Alleluia with sincerity:

"Let us give praise to the Lord by our lives and by our speech, by our hearts and by our voices, by our words and by our ways. For the Lord wants us to sing Alleluia to

St. Ambrose Liturgical Choir

After a lengthy absence due to the Covid pandemic, the ministry of choir returns to our worship in September.

For now, rehearsals will only be held on Sunday mornings at 9:30 leading to participation at the 11:15 liturgy.

Former choir members are invited back – new members are welcome.

In addition, we seek to expand the role of the Cantor to the young musicians in our parish.

There's lots of sacred music that deserves to be sung that just cannot reasonably be done by a congregation. You may want to apply your talents to this great endeavor.

For more information, contact Louise Veltri through the parish office at stambrose@comcast.net or stop up in the loft before or after Sunday's masses.



Three Virtues Essential...

Continued from page 1

him in such a way that there may be no discord in the one who gives praise. First, therefore, let our speech agree with our lives, our voice with our conscience.... For the highest harmony of those giving praise will be found there on high."

Here on earth, the desire to live in harmony, as one body in Christ, is always beset by the struggle of individual members to attune their words and their ways. Yet in prayer we can harmonize our voices and our hearts until charity governs both the words of our worship and the ways of our conscience. When minds and voices are in tune, we join the "highest harmony" of the heavenly liturgy.

Finding Harmony of Mind and Voice

This goal, which we can describe as "authentic liturgy," is not new. But it is characteristic of our time that disagreement about the right approach to the goal is itself a source and symptom of ecclesial disharmony. We characterize these divisions in the body of Christ as Catholic versus Protestant, traditional Mass versus contemporary Mass, or evangelical worship versus liturgical prayer. A more useful distinction can be made between worshipers who tune their minds to their voices and their fellow Christians who tune their voices to their minds.

The different directions are real, but it takes both kinds of tuning to turn a performance into a prayer. The task of leading the people in an authentic prayer is the same for a chant schola and a gospel choir. It requires the director and the singers to listen to the voices around them and adjust their own voices to create a harmonious sound, a unity comprising many voices. As they sing, the whole assembly adjusts the sound of their voices and the thought and feeling with which they sing. Through their adjustments, the singers grow in unity of mind and spirit, and this enables their voices to ascend into higher harmony.

In liturgy, both ways of tuning — minds to voices and voices to minds — increase the authenticity of each person's participation. More than that, these adjustments build up the unity of the church. Christians believe the same Holy Spirit that guides the whole church also dwells within each member of Christ's body...

If this "highest harmony" of prayer seems especially unattainable in the polarized liturgies of our polarized age, the discord should spur us to develop three virtues essential to bringing minds and voices into tune.

I. MAGNANIMITY

Magnanimity literally means "greatness of mind." The very name, says Thomas Aquinas, "*denotes stretching forth of the mind to great things.*" By "great things," he means great acts of virtue rather than great honors. Magnanimous choir members are confident in their ability to make their song a worthy offering of praise to God, so they dare to offer their best. They tune their voices to the "mind of Christ," which they possess by the gift of the Spirit (see 1 Cor 2: 12-16).

Magnanimous liturgists use the symbols, language, and art of their diverse cultures and inventive minds to adapt and adorn the liturgy. Magnanimity is necessary for authentic inculturation and authentic creativity. Through their "greatness of mind," Christians come to recognize that all the baptized have been "made to drink of one Spirit." The same Spirit allots gifts "to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses," and these manifestations of the Spirit are "for the common good" (see 1 Cor 12:4-13).

The "stretching forth of the mind to great things" always risks becoming prideful. The polished presider, the skilled singer, or even the pious parishioner can easily fall victim to the desire for human praise. Pride upends authentic liturgy by deceiving us into thinking that the beautiful gifts we offer God are our own accomplishments. Stay clear-eyed about whose masterpiece the liturgy is.

Continued on page 5...

All Things Considered

Although “spell check” was an idea floating around as early as the 1960s, it didn’t make it into common use on home computers until the 1980s. – far too late to help me with the task of laborious proof-reading assignments in college and grad school.

At that time, “liquid white-out,” “erasable bond typing paper,” my well-worn Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary and a classmate who was just naturally gifted when it came to spotting spelling errors, were my salvation.

I readily admit that I am a sub-par speller. This is why you won’t see me on our parish Spelling Bee Team for the Dominican Literacy Center. Now in its fourth year, the Spelling Bee fundraiser will be held on September 22nd at the historic advertising and film studio in Detroit – Jam Handy.

As a parish, we’ve registered to be one of the nine teams of three spellers. If you think you might be one of the top spellers in the parish, we want you to be on our team that will bring the coveted Bee Trophy to St. Ambrose, where according to our patron saint, is where it ought to reside.

If you are a *Killer-Speller* or *Spelling-Killer*, the party for the Dominican Literacy Center is open to you. By participating in any way, you’ll eventually end up unlocking the skill of reading (and spelling) to someone who will no longer have to struggle. Call the office to get on the team!



Please be generous to our visiting missionary Msgr. Augustine Dery Towoni who is with us this weekend to make an appeal for his home Diocese of Damongo, in North Ghana, West Africa. His appeal focuses on funding for a girls’ high school, seminarian education and well-digging in rural areas of his country.

During the pandemic, many of these direct missionary appeals were suspended because so was international travel. We haven’t seen a visiting missionary here for three years now.

So let’s make up for lost charity. If we think we’ve had it difficult during the past couple of years, just imagine how much more difficult it has been for our sisters and brothers in the mission field. If you weren’t prepared to make a donation at Mass, later today go to our website and click on the Mission Donations 2022 that you will find there.

The rectory was “off line” for a couple of days last week as electricians replaced wiring and breaker boxes damaged by last year’s flood. They are doing the same for the ARK. Phone and electrical service shut downs to our parish complex have become so routine, it’s like living in a third world country – or Texas in an ice storm! My staff has become adept at handling these energy crises that began even before the 2021 flood.

The irony is that the more upgrades and repairs made to our systems, the less user-friendly and economical they have become. We went from a three-button Bell Tel Centrex System when I arrived here in 1986, to a media-conglomerate monstrosity of a phone/internet/cable/security with 22 lines – some of which actually work.

Yes, our connectedness to our parishioners is much easier now, and our ability to access information is much better. But progress comes at a price. Our combined monthly media charges run about \$1,600.

TRP

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THE 32ND ANNUAL ST. AMBROSE RAFFLE

Faith Formation Station

It is my honor to introduce to you our sixth-grade catechists from the 2021-2022 faith formation year.
Grade 6 A & B:

Grade six is the year to study the Old Testament. The students' exploration begins with the story of Abraham and Sarah and continues with the study of Exodus, the history of the kingdom of Israel, the prophets, and the period before the coming of Jesus Christ.



Grant Ruttinger with his 6th grade class

Grant Ruttinger: My wife, Stephenie, and I joined the parish in 2000, and little did we know how our lives would change by being a part of the St. Ambrose community of faith. Looking back, I can see many doors that were invitations to us on our journey, and by accepting the invitation and stepping through, we gained so many blessings and joys that we never could have anticipated. In 2000, we volunteered to work in the art tent at Vacation Bible School, and this became an annual summertime event for us right up to the Centennial in 2016. Working with the children on a collective art project based on the VBS theme each year was always a fun and creative experience. I received the call to become a Catechist five years ago, and it is the most rewarding invitation I have accepted to date here at St. Ambrose. Both of our grandsons attend Religious Education – one is in second grade and just made his First Holy Communion and one is in sixth grade. I taught sixth grade this year, and my grandson was in my class. What a special blessing! As for the weekly classes, through prayer, readings, discussions, art projects and games, these amazing students demonstrate an eagerness, interest and faith commitment that is truly refreshing ... and inspiring! My own faith has grown and been informed by these students each and every class, each and every year.

Class Prayer:

Lord, we are thankful for learning so much about the Old Testament and how special the people of Israel were to God, about the six days of creation, Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark, the 10 plagues, the Tower of Babel, the 12 tribes of Israel, Moses, the burning bush, the 10 Commandments, David and Goliath, and more. We are thankful for learning about Jesus and his ministry, about the liturgical year, the three pillars of Lent, Palm Sunday, Triduum, Easter, and Pentecost. We are thankful for learning about the early church and how the power of Jesus' message spread throughout the world. We are thankful for knowing that we are in a Circle of Grace

surrounded by God's love. We are thankful for learning about our pumpkin saint, St. Martin de Porres, for taking part in A Night in Bethlehem, for touring our church, for writing a Psalm, for creating a Jesse Tree and a Ukraine prayer board, and for creating symbol boards linked to Old Testament stories. And we pray for world peace, for peace in Ukraine, for an end to world poverty and hunger. We pray for veterans and for people who are sick. We pray for an end to global warming. We pray for each other. Amen.

Nichole Dessinger-Flynn: I have been a member of the St. Ambrose community since I moved to Grosse Pointe Park in 1996. I enjoy serving the St. Ambrose community as a member while participating in Mass, vacation bible school, volunteering at events, and as a catechist. I am a mother of three children: Lauren, Jacob, and Maria Dessinger. I believe that children and teens need God's truth in their day-to-day lives, and I have been called to service at St. Ambrose as a catechist since 2016. I look forward to studying and teaching God's Word and pointing our youth toward making sound decisions based on God's laws and truths. I am a graduate of the Wayne State University School of Social Work and work as the Youth Services Coordinator at Alternatives for Girls in Detroit. I enjoy working with the children and teens at Alternatives for Girls and serving a community of children and young women in high-risk situations. I also enjoy studying God's Word and sharing the Gospel message by hosting ladies group Bible studies within the community. In addition, I enjoy gardening, bike riding, and relaxing in my backyard. However, my most treasured position is discipleship and sharing the important message of Jesus Christ to all.



Nicole Dessinger-Flynn and her students

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

Registration for 2022-2023: The registration deadline was September 1st. Late registrations will be accepted on a case-by-case basis as classroom space is available. Please email the religious education office to inquire.

Catechists & Volunteers Needed: We need a few new catechists for the 2022-2023 religious education year. We need catechists for kindergarten, grade 6 and grade 7. If you or someone you know might be called to sharing one's faith with the children of St. Ambrose parish, please consider joining our catechetical team. We will provide you with all the support you need. If interested, please email the religious education office at reled.stambrose@comcast.net.

Kelly Woolums

Three Virtues Essential...

Continued from page 2

II. HUMILITY

Humility is the condition of authentic virtuosity when performing “in the presence of God and his angels.” Humble choir members sing and pray in ways handed on to them. They tune their minds to the voice of the Church, through which the Holy Spirit has been uttering praise in every generation and every tongue since the day of Pentecost. They show reverence for the liturgy, accepting it as gifts handed down from their ancestors in faith.

Above all, humble liturgists accept that their performance is worthy of God only because our God has chosen, in mercy and love, to unite our service to that of his Son, they tune their minds to the words of the Eucharistic Prayer.

Humility is a necessary disposition for making such a bold prayer, but so is magnanimity born of gratitude for being chosen for God’s service.

III. CHARITY

Charity-love for one another-must be the culminating virtue of humble, magnanimous, authentic liturgists. If I have been chosen through the mercy of Christ to serve his Father, then my brothers and sisters in Christ have likewise been found worthy to stand in God’s presence. We owe each other reverence and mutual obedience in liturgy – both ways of tuning minds to voices and voices to minds.

St. Thomas says, “*We must not only revere God in Himself, but also that which is His in each one.*” **Magnanimity** helps me discern what is of God in myself, the gifts that others depend on me to share. **Humility** helps me discern what is of God in others, the gifts I depend on them to share. **Charity** is essential because humility and magnanimity both depend on having others.

Only with help from the communion of saints can I understand who I am and how I may return a gift to God in thanksgiving for the gifts I have received. Only by learning to appreciate the gifts of others and harmonize my offering with theirs can I attune my own mind and voice. Working together to harmonize our minds and voices, we enact our communion in the body of Christ. This performance is true prayer, for there is only one way to make our participation in the liturgy more authentic: together.

Written by Nathaniel Marx for GIA Quarterly Magazine. Nathaniel is the associate professor of liturgical and sacramental theology at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. For the full article, please visit GIAMusic.com



Food and Francis

St. Francis and St. Clare were known to have social and spiritual conversations in the garden outside the Porziuncola chapel in Assisi. Imitating their example, the Capuchin Retreat Center offers a five-evening series called “Food and Francis” which features an evening dinner and a conversation on Franciscan spirituality led by a Capuchin Friar.

Our theme for this year is “Transforming the World Through Reverence.” Each evening will reflect upon a specific Franciscan value that, by following, can reverently transform the world around us in the footsteps of St. Francis. Please join us for our first event on Wednesday, September 7, 2022 for our first talk “Justice for All Creation” with Br. Bill Hugo.

Call us at (248) 651-4826 to register. Suggested donation is \$40. See you at dinner!

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2	2	Box Scores
Number of Families 800		
Returns to date 112		
Average Gift in '21 \$771.00		
AoD Quota in '22 \$93,669		
Property/Liability Insurance ... \$52,000		
Adjusted parish target \$145,669		
Received as of 8/29/22..... \$97,198		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now that we've meet the AoD quota, anything given to the CSA comes directly back to our parish without the usual 7% deduction. • Donations may be made in stock or other negotiables. • The insurance premium listed – roughly \$1,000 a week – is the fund that covers our property and liability coverage for the parish. • Scan this QR Code with your smart phone camera to make your donation. 		



The Beehive

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

Priest in Solidum: Rev. Timothy R. Pelc

Pastoral Minister: Charles Dropiewski

Religious Education: Kelly Anne Woolums

Minister of Music: Louise Veltri

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, September 5

Weekday 23rd week of Ordinary Time

Office closed

Tuesday, September 6

Weekday 23rd week of Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. – Mass – Rev. T.J. Collins

Wednesday, September 7

Weekday 23rd week of Ordinary Time

Thursday, September 8

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 p.m. – Mass – Rev. Gabriel Richard

Friday, September 9

St. Peter Claver, priest

12:00 p.m. – Bishop Dale Melczek

Saturday, September 10

Weekday 23rd week of Ordinary Time

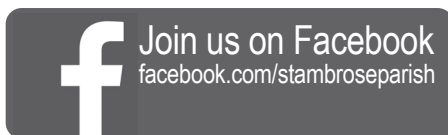
4:00 p.m. – Mass – For All People

Sunday, September 11

Twenty-fourth week in Ordinary Time

8:30 – Mass – For All People

11:15 – Mass – For All People



Scriptures for the 23rd Week of Ordinary Time

September 5

1 Cor 5: 1-8
Ps 5: 5-7, 12
Lk 6: 6-11

September 6

1 Cor 6: 1-11
Ps 149: 1b—6a, 9b
Lk 6: 12-19

September 7

1 Cor 7: 25-31
Ps 45: 11-12, 14-17
Lk 6: 20-26

September 8

Mt 5: 1-4a or Rom 8: 28-30
Ps 13: 6abc
Mt n1: 1-16, 18-23 or 1: 18-23

September 9

1 Cor 9: 16-19, 22b-27
Ps 84: 3-6, 12
Lk 6: 39-42

September 10

1 Cor 10: 14-22
Ps 116: 12-13, 17-18
Lk 6: 43-49

September 11

Ex 32: 7-11, 13-14
Ps 51: 3-4, 12-13, 17, 19
1 Tm 1: 12-17
Lk 15: 1-32 or 15: 1-10

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time September 3rd - 4th

Reference # in our Breaking Bread Hymnal or on your iPhone using the QR code.

Entrance: Glory in the Cross #139 (Vs/1,2,&4)

Psalm: In Every Age #470

Preparatory: Be Still My Soul #675

Communion: All That Is Hidden #495

Recessional: For the Fruits of This Creation #430



Currently Wayne County shows a **HIGH** level of Covid risk. As a result, St. Ambrose Parish is making the mask requirement for weekend masses mandatory.

To participate electronically, go to: facebook.com/stambroseparish or better yet, to You Tube at www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymbGIGxUF6UqPct5xFg

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

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

On Sunday, August 28, 2022

in envelopes we received \$3,624.00

in the loose collection..... \$1,061.00

in electronic donations..... \$3,665.97

for a total of \$8,350.97

Under budget for the week..... \$1,749.03

Number of envelopes mailed 621

Number of envelopes used 39



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, Jackie Walkowski, Maria Simcina, Brian Tague, Sharif Hannan, Shirley Whelan, Anne Purvis, Jerry Gutowski, Kevin O'Connor, Albina Checki, Judy Sivanov, Matthew Brown, Vince LoCicero, Lily Faith, Patty Freund, Karen Jordan, Janis Ramsey, Colette Gilewicz, Richard Strowger and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with Covid.

Our Dead

Bishop Dale Melczek, formerly a priest of our Archdiocese of Detroit, and the third bishop of the Diocese of Gary, Indiana, died suddenly on August 25th at the age of 83.

Fr. Melczek was born in Detroit and grew up in St. Clement Parish in Dearborn – the son of the late Aloysius and Geraldine – with two sisters; Sharon Lipinski and Terri (Rob) Philo.

He attended St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, and St. John Provincial Seminary in Plymouth. He held an MA in Education from the University of Detroit and did post-grad work in Liturgy at Notre Dame.

Ordained a priest by Cardinal John Dearden in 1964, he held multiple assignments in the Detroit Archdiocese including: Pastor of St. Christine's Parish, assistant vicar for parishes, vicar general, and priest-secretary for Cardinals Dearden and Szoka.

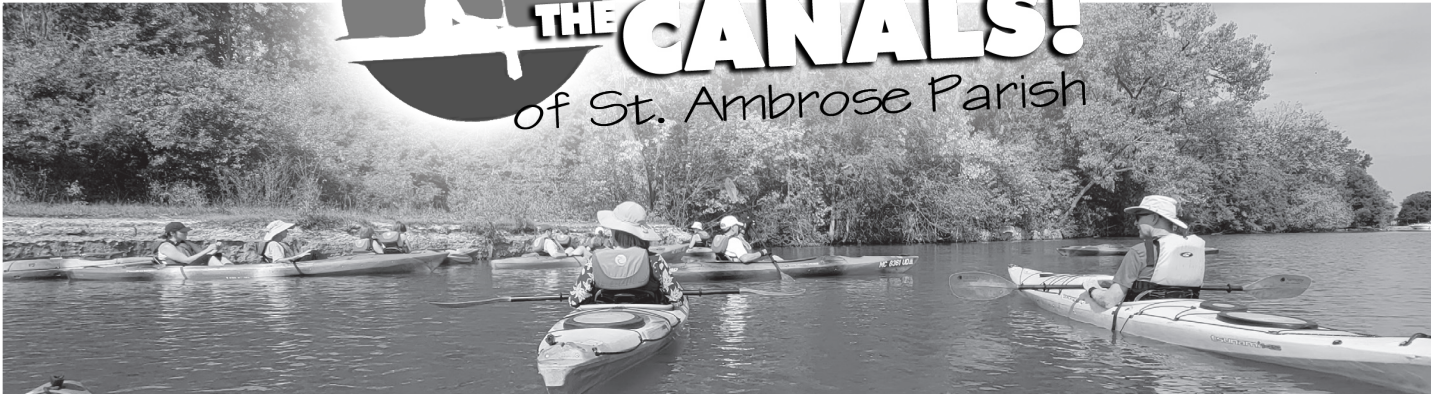
In 1982 Pope John Paul II appointed him an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Detroit. In that position, he chaired the committee for the Pope's 1987 Papal Visit to our City.

In 1992, Pope John Paul asked him to go to the Diocese of Gary to assist the bishop there who was in failing health. Bishop Melczek became the ordinary of that diocese in 1996.

Retiring in 2014, Bishop Melczek continued to minister in the Gary Diocese as a simple pastor of a parish in Gary until the time of his death.



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