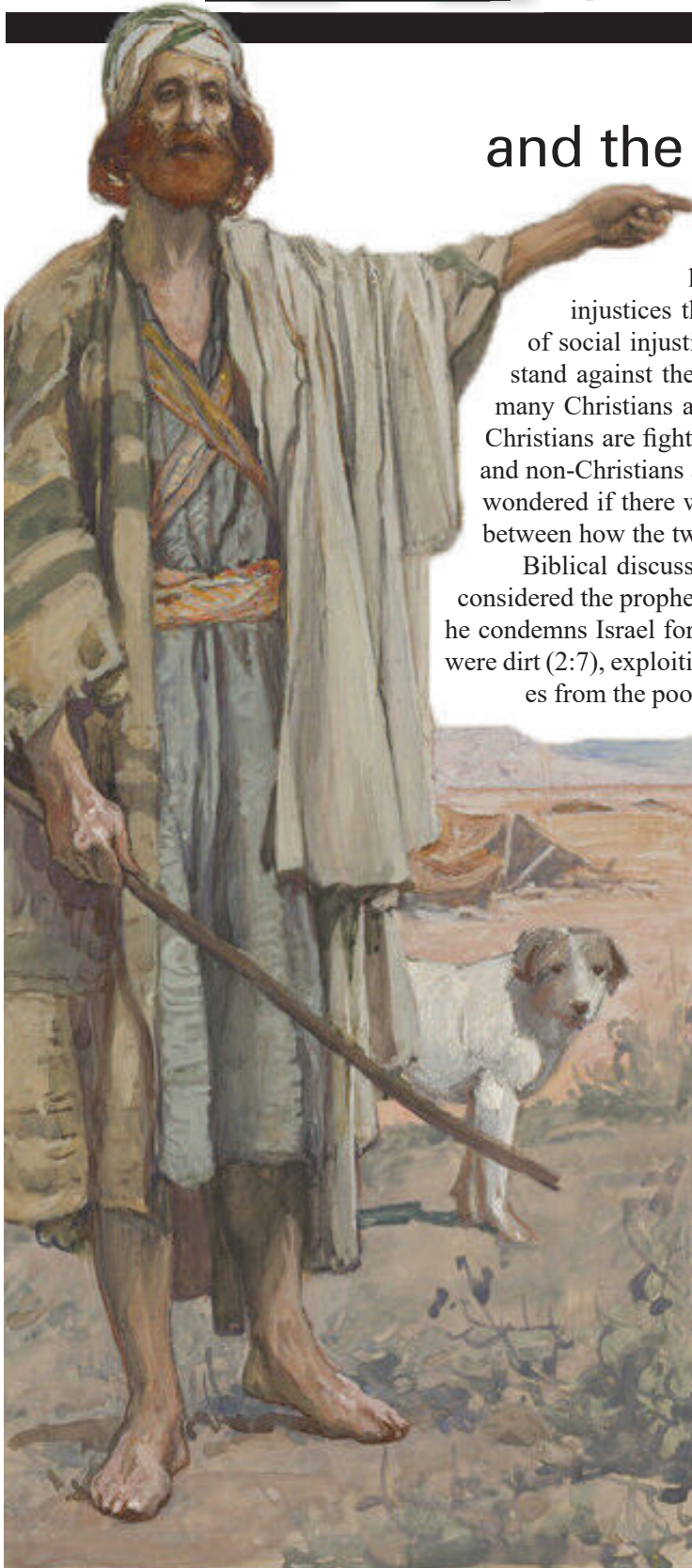


Religious Sins, Injustices, and the Prophet of Social Justice



Every day the cries for social justice echo a little louder. Social media aids in spreading the word about social injustices that only seem to multiply and never fade. As our awareness of social injustices increases, we are seeing more and more people not only stand against the injustices, but also actively work to stop them. Thankfully, many Christians are leading the charge. Yet, they are not alone, as many non-Christians are fighting the social injustices alongside them. That both Christians and non-Christians appear to have the same end-goal is intriguing. Have you ever wondered if there were any differences — or should there be any differences — between how the two groups approach social justice issues?

Biblical discussions about social justice often involve Amos. After all, he is considered the prophet of social justice, and for good reason. Amos is quite harsh as he condemns Israel for their many social injustices: trampling on the poor like they were dirt (2:7), exploiting the weak and crushing the needy (4:1), extorting unfair taxes from the poor (5:11), taking bribes and denying justice to the needy (5:12), and stealing from the people in the marketplace (8:5). Amos was not afraid to expose these sins that oppressed the poor and needy — and neither should we be afraid!

When we talk about Amos' social justice today, we need to pause and consider how we define "social justice" and consider if it is a fair description of Amos' prophecies. The term "social justice" today refers to injustices brought about because of disparities between wealth and privilege, and opportunities denied to certain groups. Yes, Amos absolutely condemns Israel for these reasons. But when you read Amos, you will see that these types of sins are intermingled with what we would call religious sins. These include, among other things, worshipping false gods (2:8), doing acts of worship while their heart is far from God (4:5-6, 8:5), and traveling to cultic sites to worship false gods (5:5).

Amos' cry against social injustice is loud and clear, but that is only a portion of his message. There is no division for Amos, nor in the Bible at all, between "social justice" and these so-called "religious issues." They are intertwined, mentioned in the same breath.

To help us understand how social justice fits together with the "religious sins," we should look at the imperatives in Amos. Out of all nine chapters, there are only two passages where he commands Israel to change their current actions. In both of these passages his focus is on changing the

Continued on page 2...

AMOS: Prophet of Social Justice

Continued from page 1

people's relationship with Yahweh, not on the social justice issues he also condemns them for.

The first of these two passages (Amos 4:4-5) uses sarcasm to instruct them to stop worshipping false gods and doing hollow acts of worship.

*"Go, to Bethel and sin! Go to Gilgal! Sin even more!
And bring your sacrifices every morning,
Your tithe every three days.
And offer up your thanksgiving bread,
And proclaim freewill offerings! Make them known!
For you love to do this, O Israelites,"
Declares my Lord Yahweh."*

In the second passage (Amos 5:4-23), he again focuses on their relationship with Yahweh, with a brief mention of what we call "social justice" today.

*Seek me so that you will live! (5:4)
Seek Yahweh so that you will live! (5:6)
Seek good and not evil in order to live, (5:14)
Hate what is evil and love what is good,
And establish justice in the city gates (5:15)
Remove from me the noise of your songs, (5:23)*

These two passages should help us reconsider how we view the current emphasis on social justice. The majority of Amos' instructions on what the Israelites should do focuses on their relationship with Yahweh, and only two verses (5:14-15) include the concept of "social justice." These are not two separate ideas. Rather, for true social justice to happen, one must follow the other. The Israelites abandoned social justice because they abandoned Yahweh. True justice in all areas will only occur when people sincerely seek Yahweh.

As we long and fight for social justice today, may we do so with Amos firmly in mind. May we realize that while we desire better laws, better judgments, and better social interactions, we as Christians should be longing first and foremost for people to seek Yahweh.

It is good to encourage people to hate evil and seek good and to do justice. But we must remember that this alone cannot be our cry. We must cry out the full message of the gospel that we see in Amos. While we work for, long for, and pray for social justice, we must be careful that we do not separate it from the foundational cry for people to seek Yahweh. Neither can we proclaim the full message of the gospel and leave out social justice. Let us read and ponder Amos and learn from him.

This was written by JoAnna Hoyt, author of "Amos, Jonah & Micah: Evangelical Exegetical Commentary". (Lexham Press, 2019)

ST. AMBROSE ROAD RALLY



Get a costume and some friends and meet us on Friday, October 28th for an evening of fun and adventure.

Through a series of clues, the rally leads you to locations all over the Grosse Pointes. A team accumulates points for accuracy and creativity – like those who show up in costume!

Admission is \$35 per person and includes a late night supper after the Rally at a mystery location!

So get your maps out and be ready to program your GPS!

**To register, visit
www.stambrosechurch.net,
call (313) 822-2814
or scan this QR Code!**



All Things Considered

While we are a long way from where we were in pre-Covid times, this weekend gives us some semblance of what community life was like for us some 30 months ago.

A positive sign is the return of our students in our Sunday School Religious Education Program. We're opening this program year with 137 students registered for classes. They represent 72 households in our parish.

Kudos to our Religious Education Director, Kelly Woolums, who held our program together in difficult and uncertain times. During the pandemic, we managed to conduct classes virtually as well as celebrate two First Holy Communion and Confirmation classes.

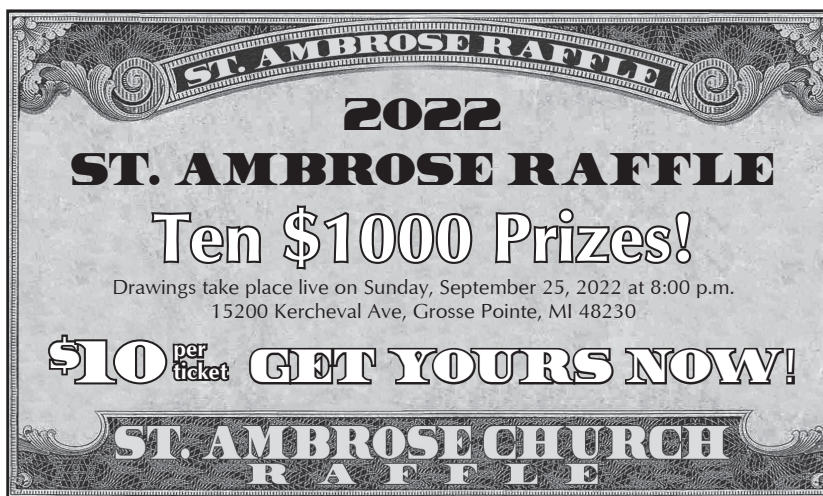
Kudos also to our dedicated Catechists who were there for their students and our families. This quote from Pope Francis addressed to catechists in Africa is just as appropriate for you. *"Even when the task seems too much, the resources too few, the obstacles too great, it should never be forgotten that yours is a holy work. The Holy Spirit is present wherever the name of Christ is proclaimed. He is in our midst whenever we lift up our hearts and minds to God in prayer. He will give you the light and strength you need!"*

Today's all-class-mass and special children's homily we felt significant enough to live-stream beginning at 8:30 this Sunday – so the regular broadcast of mass will be a half-hour later than the usual 8:00 a.m. start.

The "double whammy" of the pandemic and the flood of 2021 set our

parish back more than we anticipated. While I knew it would take at least a year to put our physical plant back together, I didn't factor in supply chain and labor issues that were exacerbated by the pandemic. As a result, we are just getting our offices back in shape and the ARK will probably need the rest of this year before it comes back online. How did we ever operate without that building?

The next couple of weeks will see a major push in flood repairs as the electrical panels are totally rebuilt. This, according to our contractor, will result in multiple days of the power supplies to our buildings being turned off. We will keep the church building in operation for the weekend. Yet



the best estimate we have is a loss of power to the church building for 3 or 4 days during the week. The electrical contractor also anticipates a shutdown of the ARK service for 2 days and perhaps 2 to 3 days for the rectory – not all on the same days. All of these localized shut downs will be followed by a complete, all campus shut down of the electrical power (and hence all office operations) for 3 or 4 days.

So October will be sort of a hit or miss month when it comes to conducting parish business. This is further complicated by the fact that we really can't plan which days will be affected. We'll do our best to keep communications open for emergencies. Be persistent and patient in trying to get in touch with us.

It would have been fun to hold the OYSTERFEST this week, but I still think that the decision to cancel the event again this year was a prudent one. We have too many physical factors working against us – not the least of which is a volunteer base of only half the size it was in pre-Covid times.

We are going to have to sit down and re-think how we can do the Oysterfest in future years so that it does not depend so much on the herculean efforts of a handful of staff and a few parishioners. We've tried to enlarge the planning team a couple of times in past years. That usually results in "blue ribbon committees" who love to meet to cook up more ideas for our already overworked staff to execute. For the

Oysterfest to make it into its fourth decade – and I think it should – we've got to re-apportion the work. Depending on the largess of generous restaurateurs may or may not be the way to proceed. And given the significant rise in the price of oysters, the "all you can eat" for one price needs to be looked at.

Along with my parish staff and a small handful of parishioners, I've done 34 of these events

and don't think I have too many more in me/us. It's time for a different leadership structure which may include an event manager just for this festival. Can you commit to the 2023 Oysterfest now? Drop us an email or a note letting us know you are on board. The Oysterfest is too good of a community-building event to just let go of because of age or physical setbacks.

Better yet, this Sunday evening, stop for dinner or drinks at any of the great restaurants and bars along Kercheval. My team and I will be at Atwater; find us to sign up to serve at next year's Oysterfest. Gather around Kercheval and Lakepointe at 8:00 p.m. for the St. Ambrose Raffle drawing. If you miss it, catch the video on our parish website.

TRP

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 9:45 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.



Classroom Assistance

On any weekend during the school year, our Religious Education program serves children of multiple ages in 18 different classrooms. Typically, each classroom is served by a teacher and a teacher's aide. Currently, we have those positions filled, but we don't have a realistic back-up of substitute teachers who can fill in upon the absence of one of our primary teachers.

We're looking for substitute catechists who can render service, sometimes on short notice. If you have been a catechist in the past, we really could use your expertise and generosity in this important matter.

Today's catechetical textbooks/resources offer outstanding support. And, you'll be helping people deepen their relationship with Jesus. You'll be handing on a 2000-year-old tradition that changes young lives.

What are some reasons why religious education is important? It helps with their own personal development & supports an understanding of the spiritual, moral, social & cultural questions that surface again & again in their lives. In tackling difficult questions it provides pupils with insight that can work to challenge stereotypes, promote cohesion, and tackle extremism.

Call our office at 822-2814 or speak with **Kelly Woolums** if you can offer assistance.

The Sacred Gift of Human Life

Join Archbishop Vigneron in giving thanks to our Lord for the Dobbs decision overturning Roe v. Wade, which occurred on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We will celebrate in gratitude for all who have prayed and worked over the past 50 years to protect the sanctity of every human life with Mass on October 2, the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 11:00 a.m.

Join us as we celebrate every step taken towards protecting human life, and ask God for the grace to continue to promote a culture of life at all stages.

Suicide Loss Survivors

"Experiencing grief can help us to find new meaning in our faith, deepen our relationship with God and others, and continue to grow in knowledge of ourselves before God." – Colleen Campbell

The death of someone significant to us can be heartbreaking, especially so when our loved one dies from suicide. We are left with a myriad of feelings that are often difficult to process. The good news is we don't have to go it alone.

Using the Ignatian Rules of Discernment to guide us, our Grief Group this semester is designed to support those who are dealing with life after a suicide. We will meet in a small group at Manresa for learning, listening and supporting one another.

Allow the care, concern and experiences of others help you heal and grow by learning, listening and supporting one another through grief. Experiencing grief can help us to find new meaning in our faith, deepen our relationship with God and others, and continue to grow in knowledge of ourselves before God.

The group is facilitated by Colleen Campbell and Sr. Linda Sevcik, SM, Manresa's Executive Director, who is a licensed clinical professional counselor. Her ministerial experience includes teaching, counseling and spiritual direction. She has facilitated numerous grief support groups.

There is a fee: \$100, due at registration. That fee is non-refundable, non-transferable. The program begins in early October. For exact dates and times, please call Sr. Linda Sevcik at 248.644.4933 Ext. 108.

Manresa Jesuit Retreat House is located at 1390 Quarton Road, in Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 | manresa-sj.org

The Buzz

Happy autumn! It's amazing that we've already entered the last "full" season of the calendar year. This coming Saturday it will be October! Three-quarters of the year will be behind us in history.

Do you remember making any New Year's resolutions for 2022 nine months ago? How many of them have you kept up?

Now, don't get discouraged. You can always join our "older brothers and sisters in faith" (as St. John Paul II referred to members of the Jewish religion) who are beginning 10 "days of awe" this evening (Sunday) with the celebration of Rosh Hashanah – the New Year of 5783 – which will continue till the Oct. 5th celebration of Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement).

Mercy and forgiveness is at the heart of the observance of this special time. It is said that each year on Rosh Hashanah God reviews the status of creation to see if we merit another year in this world. The divine judgment is not sealed for ten days until Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. During those ten days repentance, prayer and charity – done with true regret for the past and a proper spirit of commitment for the future – can remove a bad decree from above. For us Catholics, it is always the right time to do these things and thereby live in deeper encounter with the living Christ.

In the old Catholic calendar, right around the turn of each season of the year, there would be a designated portion of a week labeled Ember Days. Current political divisions, hatreds, war, etc. make our prayerful use of this time of year all the more important in 2022. Will you and your family join in? Let's face it: what's the alternative?! There's still time to make a "resolution" to do this. I'm sure God will make a "good decree" for those who do.



If you want a resolution suggestion in the mercy category, this coming Tuesday, the 27th, is the feastday of St. Vincent de Paul. Look at the announcement on p. 7 of this bulletin, and plan on participating in person or by contribution to next Saturday's (Oct. 1) Friends of the Poor benefit walk on Belle Isle to stamp out hunger and poverty in our community. Our parish conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society can't have its annual Spaghetti Dinner major fundraiser because the ARK is still not restored from the flood. So please be generous one more time through this Walk.




BTW: it just so happens that Saturday, Oct. 1, on the Catholic calendar is the feastday of St. Therese of the Child Jesus, aka, The Little Flower. She is noted for her spirituality/practice of "the little way." Participating in Saturday's Walk is sort of a little way. I bet she will let flow a floral shower of graces as she promised on anyone who participates.

P.S.: I'd be interested in hearing from you about why you think The Little Flower is so popular in the Church. I was at the Shrine of the Little Flower in Royal Oak for 10½ yrs before coming to St. Ambrose. We could share observations and insights.



October is also a month we traditionally start a new series of informational sessions for those who have made a resolution this year to find out more about joining the Catholic Faith, or completing their initiation into the Church. This is part of what is pretty well known now as the R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults; although I've heard lately that the name is changing to OCIA – Orders of ... Probably another one of those formal translations from the Latin! I'll keep you updated on what I find out.). It is geared for older teens to older adults and everyone in-between. You can check it out – no cost; no obligation – by catching me after mass, or by calling me anytime at 313-822-2814 ext.2.

Chuck Dropiewski

2	0	CSA
2	2	Box Scores
Number of Families 800		
Returns to date 122		
Average Gift in '22 \$818.00		
AoD Quota in '22 \$93,669		
Property/Liability Insurance ... \$52,000		
Adjusted parish target \$145,669		
Received as of 9/21/22.....\$103,226		
<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 26

Sts. Cosmas & Damian, martyrs

Tuesday, September 27

St. Vincent de Paul, priest

8:30 a.m. – Mass – Daniel & Helen Wood

Wednesday, September 28

St. Wenceslaus, martyr

Thursday, September 29

Sts. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, archangels

7:00 p.m. – Mass – Miguel & Lupe Davila

Friday, September 30

St. Jerome, priest & doctor

12:00 p.m. – Mass – Rev. Thaddeus Ozog

Saturday, October 1

St. Therese of the Child Jesus,

virgin & doctor

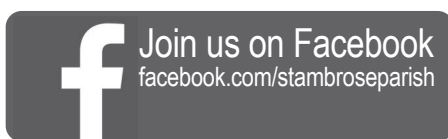
4:00 p.m. – Mass – For All People

Sunday, October 2

Twenty-seventh week in Ordinary Time

8:30 – Mass – For All People

11:15 – Mass – For All People



Scriptures for the 26th Week of Ordinary Time

September 26

Jb 1: 6-22

Ps 17: 1bcd, 2-3, 6-7

Lk 9: 46-50

September 27

Jb 3: 1-3, 11-17, 20-23

Ps 88: 2-8

Lk 9: 51-56

September 28

Jb 9: 1-12, 14-16

Ps 88: 10b-15

Lk 9: 57-62

September 29

Dn 7: 9-10, 13-14, or Rv 12: 7-12a

Ps 138: 1-5

Jn 1: 47-51

September 30

Jb 38: 1, 12-40; 40: 3-5

Ps 139: 1-3, 7-10, 13-14b

Lk 10: 13-16

October 1

Jb 42: 1-3, 5-6, 12-17

Ps 119: 66, 7, 75, 91, 125, 130

Lk 10: 17-24

October 2

Hb 1: 2-3; 2: 2-4

Ps 95: 1-2, 6-9

2 Tm 1: 6-8, 13-14

Lk 17: 5-10

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 24th - 25th

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

Choir Prelude: God of the Hungry #625

Entrance: Sing of the Lord's Goodness #562

Psalm: Praise the Lord, My Soul #819

Preparatory: Song Of Farewell #688

Communion: Bread for the World #342

Choir Meditation: The Day You Gave Us,

Lord, Is Ended #642

Recessional: I Know That My Redeemer Lives #683



Currently Wayne County shows a **MEDIUM** level of Covid risk. As a result, St. Ambrose Parish is still strongly recommending the wearing of masks in church,

To participate electronically, go to: facebook.com/stambroseparish or better yet, to You Tube at www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymBGIQxUF6bUqPct5x5Fg

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

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

On Sunday, September 18, 2022

in envelopes we received \$3,170.00

in the loose collection..... \$3,315.00

in electronic donations..... \$4,255.53

for a total of \$10,740.53

Over budget for the week..... \$640.53

Number of envelopes mailed 621

Number of envelopes used 37



Join us on YouTube

www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymBGIQxUF6bUqPct5x5Fg

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, Jeanene Maples, 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

Charles (Chuck) Valdez currently of Bradenton, Florida, and formerly a parishioner of St. Ambrose Parish and resident of the Park, passed away with his family at this side on July 14th of this year at the age of 83.

Chuck was husband to Sandra (Puma) for over 48 years. They were married here at St. Ambrose. They are the parents of Rachelle Valdez (Kevin Carlisle) and grandparents of Alexis Marie. Chuck is survived by his sister, Linda Olsow (Walter).

Chuck was an alumnus of the St. Ambrose Schools. He saw service in the U.S. Army during the time of the Cuban missal crisis. He received his masters degree in Business Administration from the University of Detroit, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude.

He was a successful entrepreneur who was enthusiastic about his work at Marrz Property and Real Estate and carried that same enthusiasm into everything he did – from running, boating, sports and travel.

He loved to dance and enjoyed all sorts of music. He remained a die-hard Detroit sports fan even while living out of state.

Chuck will be remembered for his many acts of charity and loyalty to his family and his faith.

From the Michigan Catholic Conference

Proposal 3: Anything Goes ...

As Catholics, we believe every person has a right to life, which is the fundamental right that makes all other rights possible. Abortion is a “preeminent” threat to the dignity of human life because it is a direct attack on life itself, “the most fundamental good and the condition for all others.”

Already, millions of dollars are pouring into Michigan to get Proposal 3 passed, as this measure is seen by many across the country as a trial run for similar efforts to expand abortion in other states. As Catholics who stand for the dignity of all human life from conception to natural death, it is time to come together and defeat this dangerous proposal.

The Catholic bishops of the State of Michigan emphatically urge a NO vote on Proposal 3 and strongly urge you to tell every person you know that this amendment goes too far on abortion, and to vote NO.

Proposal 3 would be dangerous for Michigan. Get empowered to talk with your friends and family about why this amendment must be defeated. Learn why by researching the proposal for yourself.

In addition to upholding the dignity of human life, there are several other principles based in Catholic social teaching to consider when voting. Log on to www.micatholic.org/advocacy/focus/2022/protect-life-vote-no-on-proposal-3.pdf to equip yourself with the principles rooted in the Church’s rich teachings on social justice that are helpful to making a well-informed vote on the entire general election ballot. ■

How would this change Michigan’s abortion law?

Michigan’s existing pre-Roe law prohibits abortion except to save the mother’s life, in addition to numerous other laws that regulate abortion. Under this amendment, all those laws would be revoked, and it would be nearly impossible for the Legislature to pass any laws to regulate abortion and protect women and children.

Why is this amendment being proposed?

This proposal was launched in anticipation that the U.S. Supreme Court would strike down Roe. The Supreme Court ruling allowed abortion regulation to return to individual state legislatures to decide, yet this amendment would take that power away from the Legislature by locking unlimited abortion access into the state constitution.

This amendment compared to when Roe v/ Wade was in effect ?

This amendment would take Michigan far beyond what was allowed for abortion under Roe. In the half century since Roe, dozens of laws have been passed to regulate abortion. Under this amendment, those protections would be gone, and abortion would be unrestricted and unregulated.

How late into pregnancy would an abortion be allowed?

The amendment would allow for abortions all throughout pregnancy. The amendment appears to allow a ban on late-term abortions, but provides an exception based on the mother’s physical and mental health. That means a late-term abortion could be justified for almost any reason.

How would Michigan compare to other states if this amendment passed?

According to the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute, Michigan is one of 36 states that require parental involvement in their child’s decision to have an abortion, one of 32 states requiring abortions be performed by a licensed physician, and one of 43 states that prohibit abortion after a specified point in pregnancy. Under Proposal 3, Michigan would no longer require parental consent, that physicians perform abortions, or a limit to when an abortion can happen in a pregnancy, putting Michigan in the minority of states in all three categories. ■



Members of the St. Ambrose Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society are walking on Saturday, October 1, 2022, on Belle Isle to help stamp out hunger and poverty in our community.

Won't you walk with us or donate to a walker? Please help us help others.

(Due to the pandemic and the flooding of the ARK, we are unable to have our Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for the third year in a row.)

To give a donation, either:

– Make a check payable to “St. Ambrose St. Vincent de Paul” and put it in the collection basket at Mass or send it to the rectory by September 30.

– Go online at fopwalk.org, choose DONATE and then “Donate to a Walker.” Enter the name of the walker. (If you are not sure, enter Randy Rennpage, our president.) Then follow the directions for making your gift.

To walk with us:

– Email liz.witherell@gmail.com and she will send you instructions on how to register.

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