

St. Ambrose Parish

FEBRUARY 19, 2023
BEEHIVE



Wearing Our Faith on Our Foreheads

If there ever is a day of the year when you can spot Catholics at a glance, Ash Wednesday is it. It is the one time when Catholics literally wear their faith on their foreheads. In fact, Masses on Ash Wednesday are better attended than Masses on most holy days, except Christmas.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent for Catholics. The ashes we receive on our forehead in the shape of a cross serve as an outward sign of our sinfulness and need for penance. The ashes also symbolize our mortality, a reminder that one day we will die and our bodies will return to dust.

The tradition of receiving ashes has its origins in the Old Testament, where sinners performed acts of public penance. It was Pope Urban II who in the 11th century recommended that all Catholics take part in the practice of receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday. In the 12th century it became customary that the ashes used on Ash Wednesday were made by burning the previous year's palm branches.

Ash Wednesday is also a day of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. According to Church law, Catholics older than the age of 14 are supposed to abstain from meat. In addition, those between the ages of 18 and 59, not including pregnant or nursing mothers, should eat only one full meal. Smaller amounts of food—not as much as a full meal—may be eaten in the morning and either at lunchtime or dinner, depending on when you eat your full meal.

More than Rules

As long as I can remember, Lent always seemed to be about rules. What's so spiritual about following a bunch of rules? I often wondered.

The truth is, I now understand, Lent is about much more than rules. How many times in your life have you thought, if only I could change things/do things differently? Well, that's where Lent can help. Ash Wednesday serves as our wake-up call at the beginning of Lent. It is a time to identify the things we have done wrong or wish we could change or do differently. Then we can choose to do something about them during the next 40 days of Lent.

And what about those rules such as abstinence and fasting? Those serve as gentle reminders to stay the course.

Lent is a journey, beginning on Ash Wednesday. Here are some ideas to help you and your family along the way:

- Try to attend Ash Wednesday services together as a family. Most parishes offer evening Masses to help accommodate working parents and busy families. Here at St. Ambrose, we have morning, noon and evening services on that day.

- Attend a penance service at your parish. Going to confession provides a wonderful opportunity for a fresh start spiritually. Plus, if your kids see you partaking in the sacra-

Continued on page 2...

Faith on your forehead

Continued from page 1

ment, they'll be more likely to go themselves.

- Focus on the meaning behind your fasting and abstinence. For instance, if having a particular food is a special treat for your family, the point of why you are abstaining from meat is probably lost. Try to find another meatless alternative for dinner.

- Collect the palm branches you received last year on Palm Sunday, gather your family together and burn these dried palms. Hold a family prayer service with the ashes. When you are done, do not throw out the excess ashes, but rather bury them in your garden.

- Since Ash Wednesday is a reminder of the need for spiritual renewal and change in our lives, take some time to review your life and name those areas where you need renewal. Once you have identified these areas, identify ways to make a change.

For Teens: Making Amends

The concept of penance is an integral part of the Ash Wednesday custom. By wearing the ashes, we are reminded of our sinfulness and that when we have done wrong, we should seek to make amends.

The Church provides us one way to do this through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We should also, however, remember the value of reconciliation in our everyday lives.

For instance, if you hurt someone's feelings by spreading gossip, you should not only apologize, but also try to make amends by clearing up any rumors or misinformation you helped spread.

Ash Wednesday is a wonderful opportunity to begin anew, and also serves as a good reminder of how we should behave the whole year through. It gives us an opportunity to slow down, find oneness with God, and allow God's grace to guide our actions throughout the year.

For Kids: Witnessing New Life

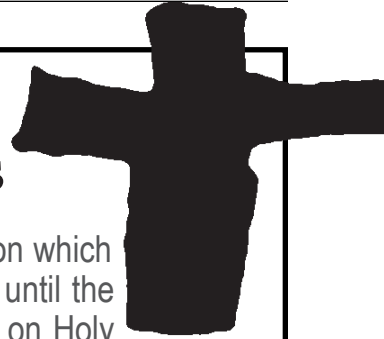
With the arrival of spring comes an abundance of new life. Just as Ash Wednesday serves as a reminder of a new beginning, take an opportunity to notice and enjoy all the new beginnings surrounding you.

Write down all the new events you see taking place, such as flowers blooming, a new baby either in your family or a friend's, a new job for someone or natural phenomena, such as bird nests and eggs, bunnies or ducks at a local pond.

Share your list with family members at mealtime or another time when you are all gathered together. Invite them to witness all the new beginnings surrounding them, too.

*From a **Franciscan Spirit Blog** by Susan Hines-Brigger. Prepare yourself and your family for Mass with the Franciscan free, weekly email at: franciscanmedia.org/faith-and-family*

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.

All Things Considered

We've been forced into dealing with another "massacre of the innocents", this time at East Lansing. Our American culture has spawned one more rage fueled shooting spree. Last week's wanton murder of two Grosse Pointe young people and a third from Clawson hits us hard.

Archbishop Vigneron sent this message the morning following the shootings: *"It is with profound sadness that we learn more about the horrific violence in East Lansing yesterday evening. We join in mourning the young lives cut short, praying that the injured are restored to good health, and lifting up all those impacted by these terrible actions. Let us also offer prayers of gratitude for the heroic service of first responders and healthcare professionals."*

That said, we still do not have any kind of effective strategies for either dealing with gun violence or the anger behind it.

The following wisdom comes from Geoffrey Watson who teaches at St. Francis High School in La Cañada, Calif. From the perspective of a teacher, he makes these observations which I find helpful.

"How does a young [shooter] become radicalized? Is there a precise moment when he shifts from angry, alienated teenager to sociopathic murderer? Does a switch get flipped? When does he make that decision to kill?"

As a Catholic educator at an all-male high school and someone who spends the majority of his days interacting with teenage boys, I find myself thinking a lot about these uncomfortable questions — and imagining what part my classroom might play in combating such troubling trends toward extremism and violence.

When I read the rage-filled manifesto the Buffalo shooter left behind last May, I could see in front of me the horrific role that bad ideas and isolation can play in a young man's development.

His words were a splatter-shot of shared memes, conspiracy theories and racist indoctrination, all of it perpetuated by a proliferation of dangerous, disembodied voices crying out online and in the media. I could almost picture these ideas taking hold of this young man's lonely mind. Feeding on his wounds, giving oxygen to his resentments, fertilizing his anger. Growing and expanding until they overpowered both his humanity and his capacity for connection.

My thoughts then immediately turn to my own students. Could any of them be capable of something like this? Never, I quickly think to myself. At the same

time, I would be lying if I said there haven't been one or two over the past decade I've worried about. Quiet, strange, particularly angry young men who have caused me to knock on our school counselor's door and voice my concern. Even among students about whom I don't have these larger worries, I would be lying if I said I haven't felt their emotions becoming more strained and unpredictable over the past three years.

What can the 21st century educator [and Catholic community] offer students in the wake of all this violence, anger and hate? What role can schools [and parishes] play in helping decrease the amount of gun violence we will all have to endure?

The best we can do right now is listen. We can give students the space to air out bad ideas, reach insights and stumble on accidental truths. We can set parameters of trust and model compassion. How we go about creating these opportunities for depth and connection, however, will require tremendous risk, self-awareness and courage. To that end, here are three strategies that have worked for me.

Strategy one: Voice your fears

When I began having these conversations with my students, I was terrified. Would I be punished for veering too far off the lesson plan? Would I say the wrong thing? Offend a parent? Would I get canceled? Fired? I decided that rather than bury my fears, I would come clean about them.

"We're trying to work out our own ideas," I said to my students, "we can disagree, we can get upset, but let's make the commitment that, no matter what our views, we're going to respect one another. We're going to give each other the benefit of the doubt, and we're going to listen to what people have to say." This can be a counter-cultural, scary proposition. But after several of these conversations, and intense, triggering disagreements about God, gun laws and gender, I have never had a single parent complain. I did, however, receive many more thank you notes

Concluded on page 5...



Arielle Anderson



Brian Fraser



Alexandria Verner



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.

Faith Formation Station

All the religious education classes have been visiting church over the past few weeks for a tour of the building. We begin our tour talking about how the building is church (spelled with a lower-case c) and how we, the disciples of Jesus out in the world, the people of God, are the Church (spelled with an upper-case C). We start our walk through the church from the narthex: the porch of the church. There we light a candle for our class from the candle stand from the original 1916 building and then talk about the significance of blessing ourselves at the holy water font and genuflecting as we enter the nave: the main body of the church where the congregation gathers.

In the nave (derived from the Latin navis/ship) we again emphasize that we, the disciples of Jesus, the fishers of men, are all in the same ship together. We are the Church. Our tour of the nave highlights the Gothic arches that support the weight of the building, the baptismal font carved from one piece of Greek Pentelikon marble that is the same marble used in the Parthenon, the stained glass windows created during WWII with lead that was supposed to be used for making bullets but was instead crafted into peaceful windows, the 8 icons of the saints, the 44 shields telling the history of both the parish and of Michigan, the stations of the cross, the confessionals, and the statue of St. Ambrose. The students could spend all day in the nave learning about the saints, about their parish history, and about art and architecture.

After taking some time to explore the nave on their own, the students gather at the sanctuary: the holy space around the altar table. We review the significance of the altar, crucifix, processional cross, presider's chair, and ambo. We talk about the tabernacle: the "tent" where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. A highlight of this section of the church includes a visit to the sacristy: the room where sacred vessels, books, vestments are kept and where the priests and altar servers prepare for mass.

It is such a special experience to get the behind-the-scenes look at how the parish operates. I know our students and catechists have a newfound appreciation for the home we call St. Ambrose. I have already heard classes that are planning to return and parents who have said their children shared with them the highlights of their visit. We want to thank Sue Dropiewski for offering us her expertise – especially for showing us all the nooks and crannies and secret doors. We also thank Dr. Duncan for allowing us up into the choir loft during choir practice. This was surely a highlight of our visit!

What Our Students Love About St. Ambrose Church:

- The Bible because it has important information from Jesus that God wants us to know. – Grade 1 Class
- The Baptismal font because all the babies in our church have been baptized there. – Grade 1 Class
- Our Christmas tree and all the Christmas decorations because they are special and help show us how Christmas is such a special time. – Grade 1 Class
- The people. – Grade 1 Class
- I love my church because you can learn about God, the dove, Jesus, St. Ambrose and Holy Mary! – Janina Grade 2
- We love the baptismal Font. Ben, Simone, and Theia Grade 2
- I connected with the tabernacle as it contributes to prayer by holding the Body of Christ. – Sydney Grade 5.
- I connected with the stained glass windows the most. I love the way they cast a glow upon the whole church so that we all feel connected. – Mina Grade 5.
- The thing I connected with the most is the choir loft because I love to sing and play my instrument – the bass. – Catherine Grade 5.

PROGRAM REMINDERS:

We do not have class over the Grosse Pointe Public School System Mid-Winter Break. Classes resume March 5, 2023.

Kelly Woolums

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins this Wednesday, February 22nd. Ashes will be distributed at morning Mass at 8:30. There will be a Scripture Service at 12:00 noon and an Evening Mass at 7:00.

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

All Things Considered

Continued from page three...

from students last spring than in any of my previous nine years as a teacher. What all of them said was some version of "Thanks for caring about us."

Strategy two: Get support

I invited our Director of Diversity to sit in on as many of these classroom conversations. Watching how he interacted with the students, and simply seeing him at a desk in the corner of the room — these experiences gave me the confidence to trust the process without trying to control the conversation with my own cautious views and easy, Hallmark-card theology. I had someone in my corner with whom I could process my own anxieties and missteps (and believe me, there were plenty!). Because the safer we feel with each other, the better we can listen.

Strategy three: Pray

*Before each classroom conversation, I would pray silently, asking God to help me listen with compassion, to support the discussion in a spirit of love and tolerance, to grant the students enough grace to find their own voice and discernment amidst so much cultural static and confusion. In other words, I prayed to stay out of the way. When you are scared of an outcome, your prayers become a lot more meaningful, and in that expression of humility and powerlessness, our relationship with God becomes much more authentic. For as Saint Teresa of Ávila tells us in *The Interior Castle*, "Humility is the ointment of our wounds," and if we have it, then "the surgeon, who is our Lord, will come to heal us." That has certainly been my experience.*

*I pray for the faith and discernment, the courage and creativity it will no doubt require to create vital spaces of communion and healing. Amid so much grief and loss, there remains opportunity. An opportunity for young people to understand, at an experiential level, what Catholics mean when we talk about *koinonia*, communion. As I see it, communion is the only antidote to all this madness, and in the face of apathetic legislation and a corrupt political system, the classrooms of the 21st century might become that necessary safe haven of kinship, depth and understanding in a sea of radical ideas and angry online tirades — a port in the storm of teenage anxiety, isolation and rage.*

"You need not be desiring to benefit the whole world," Teresa once again teaches us, "but concentrate on those who are in your company, and thus your deed will be greater since you are more obliged toward them." The young men I teach are the souls to whom I am obliged, the community to which I am accountable. And as this demographic continues to be such a worrisome group for our society, I pray for the faith and discernment, the courage and creativity it will no doubt require to create vital spaces of communion and healing.

Read Watson's full text at <https://tinyurl.com/5n95sfxy>

Ghirelli Rosaries

Six different custom designed rosaries were made by hand in Italy expressly for St. Ambrose Parish. The bead collection ranges from hard woods to various semi-precious stones.

The crucifix is modeled from the Ark Plaza sculpture and the center piece depicts the First and Second Coming of Christ from our sanctuary. The "Pater" bead is taken from a details in our stained glass windows. Not just a beautiful work of craftsmanship, but a useful aid in prayer, a real legacy piece. To order, please visit our website, use the QR code below, or visit the parish office.



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:

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, February 20

Weekday 7th week in Ordinary Time

Tuesday, February 21

St. Peter Damian, bishop & doctor

8:30 – William & Johanna Friscia

Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday

8:30 – Mass & Distribution of Ashes

12:00 – Distribution of Ashes

7:00 – Mass & Distribution of Ashes

Thursday, February 23

St. Polycarp, bishop & martyr

6:30 p.m. – Private Confessions

7:00 p.m. – Mass – Patrick Reardon

Friday, February 24

Friday after Ash Wednesday

12:00 – Mass – Chuck Valdez

Saturday, February 25

Saturday after Ash Wednesday

3:30 p.m. – Private Confession

4:00 p.m. – Mass – For All People

Sunday, February 26

First Sunday of Lent

8:30 – Mass – For All People

11:15 – Mass – For All People

Scriptures for the

1st week of Lent

February 20

Sir 1: 1-10

Ps 93: 1-2, 5

Mk 9: 14-29

February 21

Sir 2: 1-11

Ps 37: 3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40

Mk 9: 30-37

February 22

Jl 2: 12-18

Ps 51: 3-6b, 12-14, 17

2 Cor 5: 20-6:2

Mt 6: 1-6, 16-18

February 23

Dt 30: 15-20

Ps 1: 1-4, 6

Lk 9: 22-25

February 24

Is 58: 1-9a

Ps 51: 3-6a, 18-19

Mt 9: 14-15

February 25

Is 58: 9b-14

Ps 86: 1-6

Lk 5: 27-32

February 26

Gn 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7

Ps 61: 3-5, 12-13, 17

Rom 5: 12-18 or 5: 12, 17-19

Mt 4: 1-11

The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 18th & 19th

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

Entrance: Lord, You Give The Great Commission
(vs. 1,2,& 3) #380

Psalm 89: For Ever I Will Sing #793

Preparatory: Lord To Whom Shall We Go #418

Communion: Supper of the Lord #337

Recessional: Lord, You Give The Great Commission
(vs. 4 & 5) #380



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/UCbymBGIQxUF6UqPct5xFg

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

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

On Sunday, February 12, 2023

in envelopes we received \$3,866.00

in the loose collection..... \$2,448.00

in electronic donations..... \$2,805.36

for a total of \$9,119.36

Under budget for the week..... \$980.64

Number of envelopes mailed 621

Number of envelopes used 50



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, Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Alex Billiu, Jackie Walkowski, Maria Simcina, Sharif Hannan, Shirley Whelan, Anne Purvis, Kevin O'Connor, Albina Checki, Judy Sivanov, Matthew Brown, Lily Faith, Patty Freund, Karen Jordan, Janis Ramsey, Colette Gilewicz, Al LaHood, Valerie Hudson, Norma Chinchilla, Ricardo Hernandez Montoya, Angela Hansen, and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with Covid.

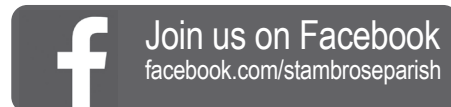
Our Dead

A funeral Mass and military honors for **Timothy McKinley Fradeneck** (71) were offered here on February 13th. He died after a very brief illness on January 30th. A life-long Eastsider, he was a resident of Warren at the time of his death.

Tim was an alumnus of both St. Ambrose Elementary and High Schools. Following graduation, he entered the Navy where he saw duty as a mechanic on an aircraft carrier. Upon return to civilian life, he was employed as an estimator for a number of companies in the Metro Detroit area. He never lost his love for working with his hands, and became a collector of antique woodworking tools. He gave ASPE Chapter 17 many hours of volunteering and leadership.

In 1974, Tim met Kay Starr and they were married in 1977. He was the loving father of Timothy II, Paul (finance of Amy Gutz), Katherine (Kevin) McGuffie and Dan (Stephanie). He was the grandfather of Miles, Harper, Ella, Finnegan, Nora and the late Timothy III "Trey" and Celeste.

Dear brother of Pam Scanlon, Susan, Kevin (Carol), Mary Liz (Peter) DuCharme, Robert (Pam) and the late Sandra (Jemar) Harville and William (Rosemary).





St. Ambrose Church Tours



Lenten Prayer and Practices at St. Ambrose

On the Thursdays of Lent, leading up to Holy Thursday, mass will be offered at 7:00 in the evening in order to give more people an opportunity to attend the liturgy during Lent.

At noon on the Fridays of Lent, we will offer Mass for the benefit of people on their lunch hour or at home during the day.

Preceding Thursday night Masses (at 6 p.m.), as well as preceding Saturday afternoon Masses (at 3 p.m.), private confessions will be heard.

The "water event" of July 2021 wiped out all the systems in four of our buildings. Construction in the ARK is still ongoing. One major item still incomplete is the kitchen which has yet to be installed. As a result, we are unable to offer our Lenten Dinners this Lent.

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