



## The Judas Chromosome

We don't know a lot about Judas, except that Jesus and the other disciples trusted him a great deal. No doubt that is why they made him their treasurer. We also know that at the Last Supper Judas was sitting next to Jesus when Jesus said that he would be betrayed by the one "who dips his hand into the bowl with me." To share a bowl with Jesus meant that Judas was sitting in a position of honor and trust. All of that makes his betrayal more painful. We would love to know exactly why Judas betrayed Jesus. Did he do it for the 30 pieces of silver? Or was it because he was disappointed in his Lord? Maybe Judas had never come to know Jesus as Lord. Matthew tells us that when Jesus announced that one of them would betray him, all of them exclaimed, "Surely not I, Lord?" except Judas, who said, "Surely not I, *Rabbi*?" Was that it? Did

Judas see Jesus only as a *teacher*? Maybe. In Exodus 21:32 we are told that the price paid for killing someone's slave was 30 pieces of silver. Had Judas betrayed Jesus long ago by considering him one who had not fulfilled expectations? Again, we just don't know.

Maybe it is significant that Matthew's Gospel doesn't spell out Judas's motivations. It leaves lots of room for us to consider the many reasons why someone would betray the Savior.

Societies have always reserved their harshest judgment for those who commit some act of betrayal. It is a sin against the trust that is critical to maintain relationships between two people or among a nation's people. Betrayal shatters the fragile bonds that hold us together, and when we lose our ability to live together we lose our ability to be truly human. That is why betrayal can destroy a marriage, family, church or community. It's why the nation is outraged at a man who chose to fight against his country in Afghanistan, and why we are so disgusted with the managers of Enron. We have always been hard on Judas and all of his imitators.

Could it be that the real reason we show betrayers so little compassion is that we're afraid there is some Judas chromosome within all of us? We hate the thought that we too are capable of betraying trust. When Jesus claimed that one of the Twelve would betray him, the anxiety within all of their souls rushed to the surface. "Surely not I, Lord?" They might as well have said, "I've been worried about that, but I thought I had it under control."

The sin that is most difficult to forgive in others is always the one we struggle against in our own lives. This is particularly true if we have lied to ourselves about our trustworthiness so often that we no longer think we have a dark side. None is as merci-

*Continued on page 2...*

# Judas Chromosome

*Continued from page 1*

less to others as the one who has no mercy on his own capacity for evil.

In Jesus' last hours none of the disciples was a model of faithfulness. Peter denied knowing his Lord three times. After the awful crucifixion was over, none of the Twelve even attended to Jesus' body. At a time when trustworthiness could have endangered them, all the disciples failed.

That terrifies us. We think we are doing OK on our commitments now, but we just don't know about that terrible Judas chromosome. When will it kick in like a cancer and destroy a life built on righteous resolve? Since we all live with the possibility of betrayal, we fear Judas more than we fear the cross. The cross is a symbol of heroic self-sacrifice. But Judas is a symbol of the evil within us.

One of the messages of Holy Week is that sooner or later every disciple will betray Jesus. We will betray him in the workplace when it will cost too much to think like a Christian, and in our homes when the anger is so great that we hurt those who trust us, and in the sacred commitments we make that we simply cannot keep. We will betray Jesus by our indifference to the poor, by our refusal to turn the other cheek to our enemies, and by the deaf ears we turn to heaven's call to live for higher purposes.

When Judas realized the gravity of his actions, he was filled with remorse and said, "I have sinned in betraying innocent blood." We are told that he then repented. But that's not enough. To repent means to turn, and what is most important is where we turn in our repentance.

Judas turned to those who despised him, and went back to the chief priests to return the money. But these priests were so self-righteous that they wouldn't contaminate themselves with blood money. The powerful maintain their power by refusing to show mercy on failures.

By contrast, Peter and the other disciples lived with their betrayal until they encountered the risen Savior, the only one who could offer forgiveness. In the gospel according to Judas there is no forgiveness, there is just sin and the futile effort to make things right on your own. In the gospel of Jesus, there is always grace that can create a new ending to our lives. All we have to do is turn to him.

It is striking that Judas and Jesus died about the same time, one as a tragic suicide and the other as a forgiving sacrifice. Judas portrays the tragic story of a fall from the heights to the depths. It is a fall that all of us will make sooner or later. But the greatest tragedy was that Judas was not at the cross to hear Jesus say, "Father, forgive . . ."

*Written by Craig Barnes. Article taken from the Feb 27, 2002 issue of **The Christian Century**. For more please visit [www.christiancentury.org](http://www.christiancentury.org).*

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> year — from the day after their 14<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> year to the beginning of their 60<sup>th</sup> year, i.e., from the day after their 59<sup>th</sup> 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

Palm Sunday is an exciting beginning to the most important week of our Christian year. Here at St. Ambrose it is made more special with our **Walk with Jesus** program this Sunday morning.

But while the event was designed with the students in our Religious Education Program in mind, it has benefits for “children of all ages”. I am more and more convinced that extracurricular activities like the one we are doing here this morning will be the formative experiences youngsters will remember as they grow.

So while we can feel good that we are doing something for our kids – we are really doing something for ourselves. Everyone who participates in today’s **Walk With Jesus** can find “God restoring the joy of our youth,” *Ad Deum qui laetificat juventutem meam.*

I want to thank the small army of grown-up kids who worked on making this program a reality, starting with **Pat Mocerri** and **Bernadette Gutowski** who thankfully are never going to grow up and lose their creative imaginations and child-like wonder.

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In a week filled with magnificent liturgies, our second grade religious education students take center stage more than once. They will lead today’s Palm Sunday Procession from the Academy building to the church at the 11:15 mass. They will return on Holy Thursday to participate in the mass that night where they and their parents will have roles in the once-a-year event called the “mandatum” or “command.” It refers to what Jesus asked of his disciples at the Last Supper after he washed their feet – a new commandment (*novum mandatum*) to love one another as he has loved us (John 13:4-17).

I want to thank our Religious Education Director Kelly Woolums and our second grade teaching staff, in particular Melissa Keagle, Jessica Kondanko and Tim Zilli, who have spent months preparing these students to approach the Lord’s table. I am confident that the approach we use here at St. Ambrose in introducing youngsters to the Holy Eucharist will cause them to see this great treasure of faith in an enduring, essential part of their faith-life.

Families looking toward taking a summer vacation that goes beyond the usual tourist and resort places should take a few moments to visit and bookmark [aod.org/eucharisticrevival](http://aod.org/eucharisticrevival). Registration for the National Eucharistic Congress in June 2024 is now open.

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Holy Week, especially the services of the Sacred Triduum – Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter – are the quintessential liturgies of our Catholic life. If you have never participated in all three, you should plan to do so at least once in your lifetime. While in our secular society, these days are increasingly more seen as holiday rather than holyday, we should nevertheless try to maintain some semblance of the idea that this is not just any week – nor is this just a long weekend.

Pope Francis says, “*When we go to Mass, we do not go only to pray. No, we go to renew, to bring about, again, this mystery – the Paschal Mystery.*” The invitation to participate in these once-a-year ceremonies is a powerful thing. Each liturgy offers a special grace. Catholics should reserve some time on Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday nights, and not hesitate to ask for time off from work on Good Friday in order to attend the celebration of the Lord’s Passion and keep the day of fasting and prayer. Your Jewish friends are doing the same when it comes to

observing the Passover the first Seder which starts on Wednesday night.

And your Muslim friends will likewise be carving out time for extra prayers, reflection, community and feasting this week since they are observing Ramadan until the 21<sup>st</sup> of this month.

If you are going to be out of town, check out the liturgies in the city where you will be. Your baptism gives you access to every Catholic community world wide – use that guest pass!

If you are homebound, there are numerous televised liturgies that you can access — from Rome to your home parish — and lots of locations in between.

Our schedule of broadcasts from St. Ambrose this week include a Livestream of Palm Sunday’s 11:15 procession and mass; our Holy Thursday evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 7:00; and our Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night at 8:00 p.m. All these liturgies will be accessible following those events for you to access on your own schedule via our Facebook page or on our website.

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There are a lot of projects going on in and around our worship space. One you can see; one you can hear; and others you won’t be able to see unless you look for them. Here’s a quick guide:

- The second batch of refinished pews have come back and the remaining seats have been taken to the factory. There are still 32 looking for sponsors.

- The first serious repairs to our Casavant pipe organ in decades have started. One whole division of the instrument has been removed and is being cleaned and re-leathered. This is a long-term project which will be accomplished only as funds permit. In the end we hope to hear the Casavant

*Continued on page 4...*

## All Things Considered

*Continued from page three...*

the way parishioners heard it back in the 1940s.

- The repairs to the ARK are making haste slowly (*festina lente*). Every major portion of the project is now on a second re-working. At this rate it will take longer to restore it than it did to build it.

- We're going to have to move our emergency generator and in the process decide on replacing or repairing this 20+ year old unit. The first quote came in at \$100,000 – which by the way is double what the Cassavant repairs have run to date.

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It's unseemly to engage in a polemic during Holy Week, so I will not. The photos of the damage to our landscaping which we recently posted have received some attention. This was not an isolated incident when it comes to our issues with the lot line between the parish and the new construction on Jefferson.

I acknowledge that urban progress is difficult and seldom driven by consensus. It is my sincere position that the community has more to gain than loose with the arrival of a performing arts center next to us. But this project has been too often shrouded in secrecy and has been anything but consultative or neighborly.

The importance of getting this development "right" is not just a matter of aesthetics, it is critical in terms of the infrastructure that will be needed to sustain a major new complex.

Our Infrastructure Committee, which has been meeting since November 2021, has been playing catch-up with the specifics of this building the whole time. At every juncture, we have been outmaneuvered by the developers and the city.

There is still time to achieve everyone's goals here, but we need to apply ourselves to what is being done to improve water issues in this part of town and not pretend that they will be OK. But for now, let's enjoy some Passover peace.

TRP

## Faith Formation Station

What an amazing week we have to celebrate. Holy Week dramatically unveils the events leading to Easter. From Passion Sunday to the Easter Vigil on Saturday night, the church invites us to reflect upon and share in Christ's paschal mystery.

### PALM SUNDAY:

On Palm Sunday we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem. Palms are blessed and distributed. They remind us of the palms that the people waved as they shouted their "Hosannas" as Jesus passed. To the Semitic person the palm tree has always been a tree of honor; it marks the place where one can find water for one's flock. Even today, palms are placed on graves to symbolize eternal life. Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week. Our special sacrament students preparing for First Holy Communion this year will once again lead the parish procession from the Merit Academy building over to church for the 11:15 a.m. liturgy. All of our students will participate in the special **Walk With Jesus** parish program activity during class. We are excited and grateful to be a part of this program!

### HOLY THURSDAY:

The night before Christ died, he gathered his friends together to celebrate the Jewish feast of Passover; it was the last meal he was to share with them. During the Last Supper, Jesus changed the bread and wine into his body and blood. He also ordained the Apostles his first priests. This is a good time to break bread and have a family meal together; bring out a family photo album to look at communion pictures and talk about your family's own faith story. At St. Ambrose our First Communicants participate in this special liturgy and receive the Eucharist with their families for the first time. Let us pray for these students and their families as they partake in this special parish tradition.

### GOOD FRIDAY:

The solemn remembrance of Christ's crucifixion and death on Calvary takes place during the Good Friday liturgy. This special liturgy is not a Mass. It is a three-part service: The Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross, and Holy Communion. Older children will understand this service better than younger ones. For younger children the story of Jesus' death can be easily told through the Stations of the Cross. This year, more than ever, we are reminded of the quote: Earth's saddest and gladdest days were only three days apart.

### HOLY SATURDAY:

On Holy Saturday night, the Church celebrates the Easter Vigil. The liturgy begins with the Service of Light, which is the blessing of the new fire and the lighting of the Paschal, or Easter, Candle. The new baptismal water is also blessed. Those who have been preparing for baptism are baptized at this Mass.

### EASTER SUNDAY:

Easter is the greatest celebration in the Catholic Church. It is the completion of Holy Week. Jesus is resurrected on Easter Sunday. We are filled with the joy of God's promise and celebrate new life! And yet, for Catholics, Easter is so much more than a single celebration. Easter is so important that we cannot celebrate it in one day. To fully celebrate the Easter season it takes fifty days, or a Pentecost (the Greek word for fifty). Each one of these fifty days, in fact, is Easter. That is why the Church speaks of the Sundays of Easter, rather than the Sundays after Easter.

### PROGRAM REMINDERS:

- No Class Session on Easter Sunday. Classes resume April 16, 2023.
- Circle of Grace – All religious education families with students in Grades K-8 will be participating in the Circle of Grace program when we return to class on April 16, 2023. Information will be provided in our weekly Friday Flocknote emails.

Kelly Woolums

# MOTOR CITY MAKEOVER



## Motor City Makeover is Back!

Spring is in the air and that means our next Motor City Makeover Bus Tour is on the calendar for Saturday April 29. Once again, St. Ambrose member and former Free Press architectural writer John Gallagher will lead us on a tour of the exciting new developments taking place in Detroit. Stops may include the newly refurbished Book Tower, the new Wayne County Criminal Justice complex, Wayne State University's new theater complex, and all the new shops along the Avenue of Fashion on Livernois!



The bus will leave St. Ambrose at 10 a.m. sharp and return no later than 2 p.m., with a stop for lunch along the way. The cost is \$30.00 per person. You can sign up for the tour by calling the parish office at 313.822.2814, visiting our website or using this QR Code!

## Are You Willing?

After providing for their families and loved ones, parishioners, alumni and friends may want to put St. Ambrose in their will, helping to assure the long-term future work of this parish. Bequests are free of estate tax and can substantially reduce the amount of your assets claimed by the government.

You can give needed support for St. Ambrose Parish by simply including the words in your will: "I give, devise, and bequeath to St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church, Grosse Pointe Park, MI (*insert amount, item or property being given here*) to be used to support the ministry of St. Ambrose Parish."

A bequest can be a specific dollar amount, piece of property, percentage of an estate, or all or part of the residue of an estate. Think about naming St. Ambrose Parish as a contingency beneficiary in the event someone named in your will is no longer living. It's always recommended that a lawyer help in drafting or amending a will.

## Holy Week Broadcasts

The CatholicTV Network is a completely unique entity in the broadcast industry: a curiosity to some, a lifeline to others, an effective "always on" tool of evangelization, the friend of many dioceses, and a source of pride for the Archdiocese of Boston. From the first suggestion by Msgr. Walter Flaherty to Archbishop Cushing up until the present moment under the leadership of Cardinal Seán O'Malley, this inspired work of the Church has existed to serve the Archdiocese and beyond in the work of evangelization, education and inspiration in the Catholic Faith. Like any television network, it is truly understood and appreciated only by those who are regular viewers and those who work within it.

For those interested in watching all of the Holy Week liturgies from the Vatican and beyond — from your living room — please follow this link for a listing of all major Catholic televised services. <https://www.catholic.tv/holy-week>

## 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.

A Ghirelli Rosary is perfect as an Easter Gift, for someone joining the Church, or for a First Communion keepsake

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, April 3**

*Monday of Holy Week*

**Tuesday, April 4**

*Tuesday of Holy Week*

8:30 a.m. – Mass –

**Wednesday, April 5**

*Wednesday of Holy Week*

7:00 p.m. – Communal Penance

**Thursday, April 6**

*Holy Thursday*

7:00 p.m. – Mass of the Last Supper

**Friday, April 7**

*Good Friday*

1:30 p.m. – Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

**Saturday, April 8**

*Holy Saturday*

12:00 – Blessing of Easter Foods

8:00 p.m. – Great Easter Vigil

**Sunday, April 9**

*Easter Sunday*

8:30 – Mass – For All People

11:15 – Mass – For All People

## Scriptures for Holy Week

**April 3**

Is 42: 1-7

Ps 27: 1-3, 13-14

Jn 12: 1-11

**April 4**

Is 49: 1-6

Ps 71: 1-4a, 5-6ab, 15-17

Jn 13: 21-33, 36-38

**April 5**

Is 50: 4-9a

Ps 69: 8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34

Mt 26: 14-24

**April 6**

Ex 12: 1-8, 11-14

Ps 116: 12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18

1 Cor 11: 23-26

Jn 13: 1-15

**April 7**

Is 52: 13-53: 12

Ps 31: 2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25

Heb 4: 14-16; 5: 7-9

Jn 18: 1-19, 42

**April 8**

Gn 1: 1-2: 2 or 1: 1, 26-31a

Ex 114: 15-1`5: 1

Rom 6: 3-11

Ps 118: 1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Mt 28: 1-10

**April 9**

Acts 10: 34a-37-41

Ps 118: 1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Col 3: 1-4 or 1 Cor 5: 6b-8

Jn 20: 1-9 or Mt 28: 1-10

## The Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

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

**Entrances:** Palm Sunday Processional #N/A

All Glory, Laud and Honor #141

**Psalm 22:** My God, My God #N/A

**Preparatory:** Glory In The Cross #142

**Communion:** Tantum Ergo #26

**Recessional:** Lift High The Cross #717



Currently Wayne County shows a **LOW** level of Covid risk. St. Ambrose Parish still recommends the wearing of masks in church.

To participate electronically, go to: [facebook.com/stambroseparish](https://facebook.com/stambroseparish) or better yet, to You Tube at [www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymBGIQxUF6UqPct5xFg](https://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, March 26, 2023**

in envelopes we received ..... \$2,327.00

in the loose collection..... \$4,026.00

in electronic donations..... \$3,541.86

for a total of ..... \$9,894.86

Under budget for the week.....\$205.14

Number of envelopes mailed ..... 621

Number of envelopes used ..... 53



Join us on YouTube

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymBGIQxUF6UqPct5xFg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymBGIQxUF6UqPct5xFg)

## Our Sick

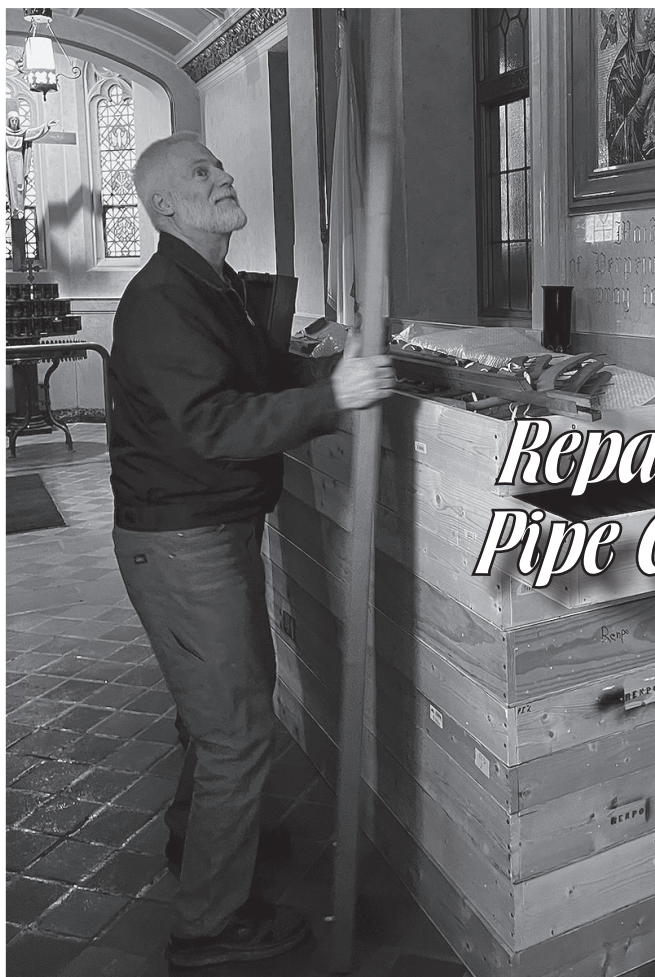
Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Matthew Elias, Mary Martin, Emilie Kasper, Anna Noto Billings, Eileen O'Brien, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, James Blake, Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Alex Billiu, Jackie Walkowski, Maria Simcina, Sharif Hannan, Shirley Whelan, Ricardo Hernandez Montoya, Albina Checki, Judy Sivanov, Matthew Brown, Lily Faith, Patty Freund, Karen Jordan, Janis Ramsey, Colette Gilewicz, Al LaHood, Valerie Hudson, Norma Chinchilla, Jeanene Maples, Angela Hansen, Marilyn Potenga, and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with Covid.

## Święconka

The Blessing of the Easter Food is a grand event during the quiet of Holy Saturday. The Creed says that Our Lord, "descended into hell" before he rose from the dead. The quiet of Holy Saturday recalls this reality. Our churches reflect the terrestrial and temporal reality that Our Lord is still not with us — the statues are still shrouded, the tabernacle doors swing open, the altar is stripped, the sanctuary light is still extinguished. Yet amidst this silence, the faithful meet the priest with their baskets of food for the Easter feast. This tradition runs deep among the Slavic peoples. Poles, Slovenes, Croats, Slovaks, Russians, Ukrainians and others celebrate this wonderful tradition – and you can too, no matter what your ethnic background!

Once blessed, these Easter foods, which are eaten on Easter morning, and throughout the rest of that holy day are considered especially salvific and healthy. According to tradition, the leftover crumbs and bones from these blessed baskets are buried in the garden so that the Earth also receives blessing from the Resurrection.

Here at St. Ambrose, the blessing of Easter baskets will take place on Holy Saturday at noon in church..



*Repairs to our Casavant  
Pipe Organ have started!*



## Holy Week & Easter 2023 at St. Ambrose Parish

**SATURDAY, APRIL 1**  
Penance Service - 2:00 p.m.  
Palm Saturday Mass at 4:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 2**  
Palm Sunday Mass - 8:30 a.m.  
Palm Procession and Mass - 11:15 a.m.  
Walk With Jesus program to take place following each mass - All are welcome.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5**  
Penance Service - 7:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 6 — HOLY THURSDAY**  
Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:00 p.m.  
Private adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the church until midnight.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 7 — GOOD FRIDAY**  
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death - 1:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 8 — HOLY SATURDAY**  
Blessing of Easter Food - 12:00 noon  
**THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL MASS - 8:00 p.m.**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 9 — EASTER SUNDAY**  
Easter Mass at 8:30 a.m.  
Easter Mass at 11:15 a.m.

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