

## Alive Upon Arrival

It is often when conditions seem the most damp and dark, when the rain has poured and patience runs thin, that green shoots of new life will begin to emerge. The seed that has died and been buried is the one that will emerge on the other side of decay in a multiplication of life.

I held the desiccated bundle of plant matter in my hand and looked up at my friend who had just given it to me. “What is it?” I asked, while turning it over to see bits of dirt still dried onto tendrils that seemed to have once been roots. Lyndon Penner, my friend who has written books about gardening in the harsh extremes of the Canadian prairies, looked down at the crispy mass and smiled. “It holds a secret,” he said, “it’s alive, and it’s my gift to you.” It sure didn’t look alive. I gave the stems a squeeze, and though it felt dead, no leaves crumbled — a hint that not all was as it seemed.

The “False Rose of Jericho” is neither a rose nor from Jericho. It’s a type of clubmoss which, when faced with worsening conditions, will dry out, shrink down, detach from the soil, and roll up into a baseball-sized bale of brittle waste. It’s not green, and to my untrained eye, it is perfectly dead. While some call it a “Stone Plant” with good reason (it is sold in our local gem store), it’s also called “Resurrection Moss” because even after several years, it will reveal a secret.

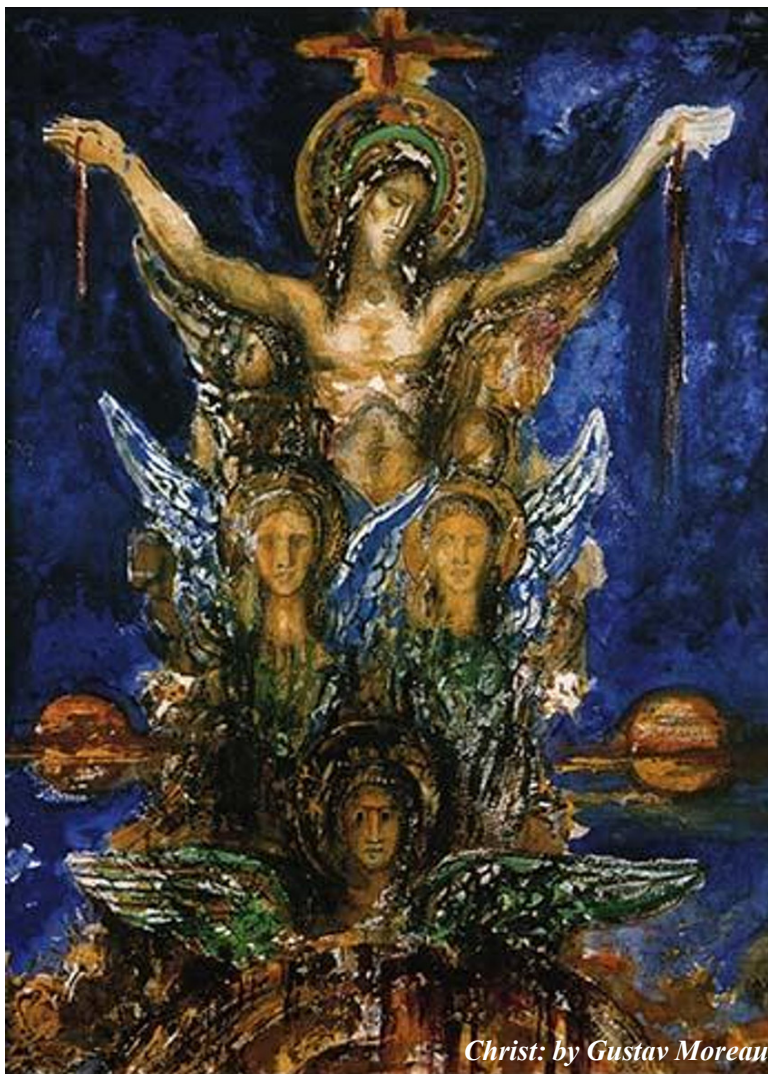
We gathered our girls around a little dish with water and set the brown tumbleweed inside. “Pour some water on top, too. Let it know it’s safe to wake up,” Lyndon suggested. Within hours it unfurled like a baby stretching for first breaths

and turned a deep vibrant green. We were in awe. When I asked Lyndon what was going on, he touched the still unfolding edge and explained that this plant’s vascular system isn’t like those of other plants: “It’s made differently. It’s made to revive.”

Gardeners like Lyndon have a nuanced sense of what is alive and what is dead. A tree that falls to the forest floor may carry more life in death than when it was alive. The biomass of a dead tree becomes host to a network of bacteria, fungi, plants, insects and animals, and even the empty space it leaves in the forest canopy makes room for new light to fuel fresh sprouts and the next generation of growth.

Seeds and bulbs hold more promise for the future than the aging plants that made them. What is

dead, sapless, and blowing about in a garden may be the stuff of new life next year. In fact, some seeds only crack open and sprout after a forest fire rages through: it’s a bewildering mystery that entangles hope and loss together in a knot that only patience can unravel.



*Christ: by Gustav Moreau*

# NIGHT OF HOPE *Dinner*

Our parish engaged in a Lenten Coin Folder project which will be applied toward the established of a new orphanage in Ogomi, Nigeria.

The energetic Fr. Anthony Kote-Witah is pretty much single-handedly dedicated his talents to accomplishing this goal of bringing an orphanage to his native land.

To this end, there will be a major fundraiser on May 10<sup>th</sup> at the Regency Manor in Southfield.

Seating for this event is limited, however, we have reserved a table specifically for St. Ambrose parishioners and will be available at \$300 per seat to benefit Fr. Anthony's cause. Tickets for this event can be purchased through our front office or online by using the QR code below.

The Ken Saro-Wiwa Memorial Foundation is a non-profit charity organization established in the United States with a focus on orphans everywhere, especially in Ogoni and her enclaves that provides shelter, health care, and education to the disadvantaged and vulnerable children in our society.

For more information about this event and The Ken Saro-Wiwa Memorial Foundation please visit <https://kensarowiwamf.org/>



## Alive Upon Arrival

*Concluded from page 1*

Canadian singer-songwriter Steve Bell wrote a song of the same name borrowing from the theme, and reflects:

*Perhaps it's not so bad that things decay  
That ocean breakers ebb and flow away  
That light ascends then settles at the ending of the day  
That beating hearts can stop and start again.*

As the pastor at Lake Ridge Community Church in Chestermere, Alberta, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police chaplain in my city, my work is to attend to the presence of God amid the fragile seasonal rhythms of loss and life. I gather up and tenderly try to hold the desiccated and bunched-up experiences of my neighbors, and wonder with them at the possibility of life. Is there any green here? Is there any hope of resurrection after all we have seen? Cynicism, fear, anxiety, and anger are not far from the edges of this search; they are blunt tools we wield when we face great sorrow. We are humans who have within us the godly instinct to push against the darkness, but our implements of rage do not till the ground with hope. Life does not come by force.

Jesus, when he rose from the grave, was mistaken for a gardener. It is my favorite story. "Jesus asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?' Thinking he was the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary.' She turned toward him and cried out . . ."

I enter into this intimate moment in John 20 because here Jesus meets a broken world, one collapsed in on itself, reeling from the death on Golgotha's hill. Here, below it, seems to be Jesus's first resurrection act of love: he is caught gardening. The one who tells stories of seeds and weeds, and was there at the start of the world, is here apparently fussing about in a cemetery garden, fingernails pulling back the gravel, clearing space and wondering at growth, as any gardener tends to do. Jesus, palms pressed in the dust of this world he loves, becomes for me the most beautiful and hopeful picture of life for the church.

In recent weeks, my hands have opened doors for those on their way to jail, carefully received a homemade noose finally surrendered in tears, and held the hands of a person awaiting surgery. I've also made snacks for the neighborhood kids, poured gallons of coffee with those who have stories to share, and flipped through papers in yet another committee meeting. We are frail, limited, and unsure — uprooted and searching for water, but it is here that we discover that we are made of something else. Our hands are made to tend at soil level. Close to the ground is where death and life meet.

**Religions, corporations and empires are worried sick about death. They fire, hire, merge, and force their will to ensure that they stay alive. Jesus was put on a cross by those who found him to be too much a risk to their life. He was not a threat to their life; he was offering them life.**

**We are people who walk in the way of Jesus. The Church is made for the resurrection life, and to give ourselves away in love for our neighbors. We have a knowing, founded in the depths of Christ, that being last, lost, used up, and dried up is not the end of us.** Outside the tomb of Lazarus, Jesus drew close to Martha to reveal the Easter mystery: "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying" (John 11:25, NLT). Even in death, we live. It's how we were made.

*By Preston Pouteaux for Christianity Today Lent/Easter Issue, February 6, 2023*

# All Things Considered

An American Family Survey suggests that religious attendance in the U.S. has declined significantly in the past two years. Regular churchgoers are down by 6 percentage points, from 34% in 2019 to 28% in 2021. Meanwhile, the share of secular Americans who have never or seldom attended religious services increased by 7 percentage points.

Anecdotal, I think I'd have to agree with those numbers – maybe even think they are a little modest. Even though we're seeing a gradual growth in participation in masses, we're still nowhere near the attendance numbers pre-Covid.

But every now and again we get a spike in attendance and a return of some familiar faces which give us some optimism. Over Holy Week we saw some parishioners that we have not encountered since pre-Covid days. On Easter Saturday/Sunday, we welcomed a grand total of some 650 worshippers here at St. Ambrose.

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I didn't get a response to this request last weekend, but it was a holiday. I am going to again encourage you to open your hearts to an event that is being organized by co-pastors of Immanuel Grace African Methodist Church, the **Revs. Michelle and Alfred Baylor**. Their Fellowship Hall, located at 490 Conner, was destroyed in the water event of 2021.

Their congregation has recently become involved with the community based and led **Jefferson-Chalmers Water Project**. They now invite our parish to join them in that endeavor.

In addition to Family of Parishes issues, I am still involved with our flood repairs, and deeply committed to our Infrastructure Committee meetings and because of that I can't offer a lot of time to yet another com-

mittee. I think there is a lot of overlap between what we have done on discovery and what this new group needs to accomplish. We have information to share and there is enough work for both groups.

I am counting on some of our parishioners to take this on in the name of our congregation. In particular, I think that the families in our parish who reside in the Jeff-Chalmers neighborhood have the enlightened self interest and stamina to focus on this issue. The goal would be to bring together spiritual, idea and community leaders seeking to problem-solve a common issue that too often gets disconnected at the city border.

The initial gathering for the Water Project will be at a Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. Let me know your interest.

The agenda for that first session will focus on our neighborhood's unique relationship with the Detroit River and how that presents a variety of blessings and challenges.

Easter is a great time to commit to new life, and the life of our community just can't keep sputtering along without commitment and prayer.

You can learn more about the Water Project initiative at [www.jeffersonchalmerswaterproject.org](http://www.jeffersonchalmerswaterproject.org).

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The winter, which arrived late then lingered too long, wreaked havoc on our beehives and our colonies have either fled or been wiped out.

A couple of weeks ago, I met with **Robert Pangborn**, our current apiarist, i.e. beekeeper. We wanted to schedule a delivery time for the new colonies. That was just about the time that the construction fencing and demolition had begun. I expressed my concerns that this and subsequent activities at that site needed a professional assessment from other apiarists. Last week, I received this reply from **George Chapman** – who had been our beekeeper for many seasons and knows the conditions of our site as well as the disposition of bees. Last week, George wrote to me:

*"After doing some research I've learned that bees are stressed by machinery vibration and noise if their hives are too near construction sites. This external stress is not good for the bees and it can also prove dangerous for the construction workers. There have been incidents where bees have swarmed and attacked workers causing injury and hospitalization.*

*... Due to the upcoming construction site next to our bee yard, I don't think we should move forward this season. I am not comfortable with taking the risks an incident could expose St. Ambrose to if someone were to be injured. I can't tell you where a location for the hives would be after the new center is in. We'll need to reevaluate at that time."*

That was the evaluation I expected. So, in the interest of safety, there will be no hives on our property this year.

But I didn't want to lose our connection to bee culture here at St. Ambrose, the patron saint of bees, and to the rescue came **Paul Lavins**, who graciously extended temporary lodging for our hives on his property for this season.

And as George indicates, we're going to have to carefully look to determine whether or not we can find a good location in the future here on our campus. Bees are adaptable to dense urban situations with hives located on top of many multi-stories buildings. Once such location for us might just be the roof of the church sacristy. It would be more difficult to service and maintain, but would give the bees the space that they need to pursue their important work in our food chain.

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The Sacrament of Confirmation for adults will be celebrated at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on Pentecost, May 28<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m. If you haven't been Confirmed and can't be a part of our parish celebrations, then you are invited to participate in this Archdiocesan Confirmation ceremony. There is some preparation and paperwork, so contract us before the end of April.

TRP



A long-time service ministry of the late Patsy Mann was a hot dinner prepared and served by St. Ambrose parishioners at St. Patrick Senior Center for the low income senior citizens living in the Cass Corridor.

Patsy has gone to God, but the hungry poor remain. Picking up the leadership of this project is Chris Miller.

The date we've been asked to fill at St. Patrick Senior Center this year is Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Just 14 days away!

There are multiple tasks that need attention – from cooking our “St. Ambrose Casserole,” to serving it and providing fellowship with the seniors. If you have helped in the past, we want you back. If you are new to this ministry, you're welcome to join us. Contact the rectory at 313-822-2814, or E-mail us at [stambrose@comcast.net](mailto:stambrose@comcast.net)

St. Patrick Senior Center is Detroit's largest health, wellness and activities center for people over 55. For nearly 50 years, St. Pat has been celebrated for the delicious, nutritious meals served six days a week.

On many days, 200 people gather in their dining room for food, fun and fellowship. During the pandemic, they launched programs delivering groceries and other basic necessities to our friends who may have trouble getting out.

## Faith Formation Station

*“Christian joy does not arise on the fringes of reality, by ignoring it or acting as if it did not exist. Christian joy is born from a call - the same call that Saint Joseph received - to embrace and protect human life especially that of the holy innocents of our own day.” –Pope Francis*

As April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, it is a good time to review what policies and programs our Archdiocese of Detroit mandates and what we offer and institute in our programming at St. Ambrose in Religious Education. The Archdiocese of Detroit takes seriously every allegation of sexual abuse and exploitation; they are committed to protecting children and adults from harm. The AOD's Safe Environment program is in place to help prevent sexual abuse within our community and to heal the wounds of past victims.

Every person connected to the Archdiocese of Detroit, whether clergy, employee or volunteer, is required to submit to certain protocols before possibly coming in contact with a child. All employees, catechists, and volunteers in our religious education program are required to participate in the following:

- Mandatory training called Protecting God's Children
- Archdiocesan Policy on Criminal History Background Checks
- Adherence to a code of conduct for employees, religious and clergy
- Enforcing a code of conduct for volunteers
- Safe Environment Policy

Additionally, safe environment programming is offered to all of our students through the Circle of Grace program. Circle of Grace is the approved safe environment training program for elementary and high school students enrolled in religious education in the Archdiocese. The goal of the Circle of Grace program is to educate and empower children and young people to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others. Circle of Grace is the love and goodness of God that surrounds us and all others. It is the recognition that God is with us always and is there to help us in difficult situations. Through the Circle of Grace Program, adults assist children and youth to recognize God's love by understanding that each of us lives and moves within a Circle of Grace. The Circle of Grace program teaches children and young people to seek help from a trusted adult, reinforcing God's presence in their real-life struggles. As scheduled on April 16<sup>th</sup>, all our religious education students will be taught a Circle of Grace lesson by their catechists and will bring home a follow-up letter to reinforce the lesson with their families.

Lastly, all teens in the archdiocese in grades 9-12 who volunteer with children in vacation Bible school, sports teams, and religious education classrooms are required to attend a Called to Serve workshop. Called to Serve is an interactive safe environment training program for teens in our Catholic High Schools and Parishes. Participants leave empowered to:

- Use talents to effectively & responsibly serve others
- Work with and be role models for children
- Communicate and partner with adult supervisors
- Interact appropriately with peers
- Recognize and respond to inappropriate behavior

It is worth noting that the AoD is in the process of updating its Safe Environments programs. They are transitioning from Circle of Grace to an online Empowering God's Children platform. A new and updated Code of Conduct for employees and volunteers is also being rolled out along with an online recertification training session for anyone who completed Protecting God's Children before 2020. Further information about the requirements and time line for recertification will be forthcoming. Anyone who volunteers with or around children in the parish will be notified.

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!

## Please .... Save us a seat

The wooden pews in St. Ambrose church building have served this congregation "in good times and bad" for coming up on a century now.

They were designed and installed in 1925 and crafted in Michigan out of Red Oak, with the secondary wood of the seat portion in American Elm – a lesser wood back then, but almost non-existent today.

Preparing for the building's centennial, each pew is being removed and taken to a workshop in Ubly, Michigan, where it will be disassembled, sanded, stained and refinished, along with the Hymn book racks and kneelers, which will be rebuilt and refitted with new hardware.

**In honor of the thousands of faithful who have sat here, please consider committing to restoring one of our antique pews.**

For further information or to generously sponsor a pew, please visit [stambrosechurch.net](http://stambrosechurch.net), follow the QR Code to the right or call our office at (313) 822-2814.



## 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](mailto:stambrose@comcast.net)

**Religious Education:** (313) 332-5633

**Pastoral Ministry:** (313) 332-5631

**Ark Scheduling:** (313) 822-2814

**Parish Website:** [stambrosechurch.net](http://stambrosechurch.net)

## Liturgy Schedule

**Monday, April 17**

*Weekday 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Easter*

**Tuesday, April 18**

*Weekday 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Easter*

8:30 a.m. – Mass – Lee Beard

**Wednesday, April 19**

*Weekday 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Easter*

**Thursday, April 20**

*Weekday 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Easter*

7:00 p.m. – Mass - Geraldine Baker

**Friday, April 21**

*St. Anselm, bishop & doctor*

12:00 p.m. – Mass – Joan Convery

**Saturday, April 22**

*Weekday 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Easter*

1:30 – Wedding – Lauren Scopel

& Bryan McDaniel

4:00 p.m. – Mass – For All People

**Sunday, April 23**

*Third Sunday of Easter*

8:30 – Mass – For All People

11:15 – Mass – For All People

## Scriptures for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Easter

**April 17**

Acts 4: 23-31

Ps 2: 1-9

Jn 3: 1-8

**April 18**

Acts 4: 32-37

Ps 93: 1-2, 5

Jn 3: 7b-15

**April 19**

Acts 5: 17-26

Ps 34: 2-9

Jn 3: 16-20

**April 20**

Acts 5: 27-33

Ps 34: 2, 9, 17-20

Jn 3: 31-26

**April 21**

Acts 5: 34-42

Ps 27: 1, 4, 13-14

Jn 6: 1-15

**April 22**

Acts 6: 1-7

Ps 33: 1-2, 4-5, 18-19

Jn 6: 16-21

**April 23**

Acts 2: 14, 22-23

Ps 16: 1-2, 5, 7-11

1 Pt 1: 17-21

Lk 24: 13-35

## The Second Sunday of Easter

April 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>

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

**Entrance:** Join in the Dance #571

**Psalm:** This is the day the Lord has made #808

**Preparatory:** Ye Sons and Daughters #172

(Beginning with Verse 4)

**Communion:** Regina Coeli/O Queen of Heaven #187

Eye Has Not Seen #473

**Recessional:** Jesus Christ Is Risen Today #178



To participate electronically, go to: [facebook.com/stambroseparish](https://facebook.com/stambroseparish) or better yet, to You Tube at [www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymbGIGxUF6UqPct5xFg](https://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 Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023**

in envelopes we received ..... \$8,471.85

in the loose collection..... \$8,567.85

in electronic donations..... \$3,726.23

for a total of ..... \$20,765.93

Over budget for the week.....\$10,665.93

Number of envelopes mailed ..... 621

Number of envelopes used ..... 125



Join us on YouTube

[www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymbGIGxUF6UqPct5xFg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymbGIGxUF6UqPct5xFg)

## 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.

## Urban Agriculture: Soil + Water

Learn about Urban Agriculture in our community featuring Myrtle-Thomson Curtis, Freedom and Parker Jean, Sanctuary Farms on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 6-8 P.M. at East Lake Baptist Church at 12400 E. Jefferson Avenue.

## Praying with Icons at Manresa Retreat Center

Icons, more than any other form of art, are meant to be prayed with. Eastern Rite icons are quite different from Western art. The Western Church leaves artists free to paint religious images however they want; the Eastern Church provides guidelines to ensure that icons are theologically sound. That's because icons are meant to proclaim the Gospel in images as the Scriptures do in words.

Icons belong in churches, not museums; they are sacred objects for the prayer corners of our homes, not decorations for anywhere else. They not only recall historical persons and events, but they are windows into heaven that put us into direct contact with the holy persons or with the enduring heavenly reality of the events portrayed.

Please join us on April 25<sup>th</sup>, May 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at Manresa Retreat Center in Bloomfield Hills. Register at [manresa-sj.org/022823-art](https://manresa-sj.org/022823-art) or phone 248.644.4933 Ext. 0.



# Scenes from Holy Week

Easter Sunday 8:30 A.M. Mass



Holy Thursday



Easter basket blessing



Holy Saturday

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