AUGUST 20, 2023 BEEHIVE

POST FI OOD BLOCK PARTY



It's been a wild few years for all of us in the neighborhood: navigating a flood and the massive cleanup. So let's gather to count our blessings, get reacquainted with our neighbors and simply enjoy a pleasant Sunday afternoon.

Rain or shine, join us to grill and chill!

This Sunday, August 20, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. on the plaza of the ARK and in the parking lot of St. Ambrose Church.

Food and drinks will be served, with music on the ARK plaza, and best of all, it's free! And we'll have something to keep the kids busy, too.

Bring your lawn chairs!

If you need more information, call St. Ambrose at 313-822-2814 or send us an email at stambrose@comcast.net



Four ways the Catholic Church can actually listen more to young people

Pope Francis traveled to Lisbon, Portugal, this summer for his fourth World Youth Day, to listen to the hopes, challenges and questions of over one million young Catholics from every corner of the global church. He met with sexual abuse survivors, Ukrainian pilgrims, university students, young people suffering from illness; and he challenged them all to work for a "hope-filled future."

A much smaller contingent of young people will have the Pope's ear this October in Rome at the first of two month-long meetings in 2023 and 2024 of the Synod on Synodality on the themes of communion, participation and mission. For the first time in history, laypeople will have the right to vote in a synod, and among the voting members are college students and men and women in their 20s and 30s.

The Pope has said, "Synod means walking on the same road, walking together." As we embark on this new path in the life of the church, what are some guidelines to consider when thinking about, listening to, and walking with young people?

Young people are not a monolith. It can be unhelpful and reductive to speak about any group in the church as a unified bloc. In a similar way, we should avoid speaking of "young people" as if they all share a common perspective on or experience of church.

There are young Catholics who are drawn to more traditional liturgies and those who feel at home in a Catholic Worker House, and some find deep meaning in both. There are young Catholics who feel hurt and alienated by the church's teaching on sexuality and others who see the church's countercultural witness as a bulwark in a destabilizing, relativistic world. There are hundreds of thousands more who have not set foot in a church since their baptism or confirmation. Outside the U.S. church, there are young people fighting in and fleeing from the war in Ukraine; young migrants risking their lives in the Mediterranean and on the Rio Grande; and others struggling in refugee camps across the Middle East and Africa.

When framed in this way, "listening to young people" can start to seem an impossible task. But this way of speaking may also shed some light on the sometimes opaque concept of synodality. If we are to truly listen to all these young voices, it will take more than a Vatican meeting or survey. It will require a new way of being church, a church that accompanies its people and is attuned to their hopes, doubts and lived experiences.

The church must admit its failures and offer something different. The working document for the synod says that a synodal church is one that "seeks to widen the scope of communion, but which must come to terms with the contradictions, limits and wounds of history." Most young Catholics today have known only a church marred by the sexual abuse scandal — but that does not mean they see it as ancient history. While the church has made great strides in the protec-

tion of children and vulnerable adults, the revelations remain shocking for each new generation of Catholics as they mature. Church leaders must be forthright with young Catholics about past failures and transparent in their ongoing efforts to hold accountable those who covered up abuse. For young people to show up at the table, they have to trust they are speaking with adults who have their best interests at heart.

But the church has failed young people in other more subtle ways. It can be easy to blame secular culture, or even young people themselves, for the exodus of millennials and Gen Zers from the pews. And there is plenty to critique about modern society. But we should ask ourselves: Have we failed to offer something different? Studies show that Gen Z is the loneliest generation. If these young people are not finding community in parishes, have we been bold enough in searching for new models of relationship? In a country marked by deep polarization, have Catholics too often indulged in those divides instead of seeking to be agents of reconciliation?

Young people today are hungry for authentic communion, both with other people and with God, but they are skeptical of institutions and allergic to hypocrisy. To be credible in their eyes, Catholics should be honest about our short-comings but unafraid to go against the grain of an increasingly flattened, materialistic world.

Listening to young people does not mean idolizing youth. In his book *God Is Young*, Pope Francis writes: "Adolescents seek confrontation, they ask questions, they challenge everything, they look for answers. I can't stress enough how important it is to question everything." But he has also said that the church cannot think "she is young because she accepts everything the world offers her, thinking that she is renewed because she sets her message aside and acts like everybody else."

There are many young people in the church — and many more who have left — who want to see church teaching, especially where it relates to women, L.G.B.T. people and divorced Catholics, better aligned with more modern values. Those voices will be represented at the synod and should be listened to, not for show but with an ear for where the Holy Spirit may be working through them. Serious discernment will be needed to find our way forward, and that will require the wisdom from within the church that has spanned the ages too.

The idea is to ask for more, not less, from young people. Among the delegates from the United States who will have the right to vote in October's Synod is Julia Oseka, a junior at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia. When asked what emerged from her synodal conversations over the past two years, she said, "[T]he feeling that young people are not merely the future of the church, but also the now of the church." While much discussion around the synod has rightly focused on Catholics with one foot in and one foot out of the

All Chings Considered

Alexander (Sasha) Zorin was born in the former Soviet Union in 1966. In 2003 he graduated from the Smolensk State Institute of Fine Arts. He came to the United States in the mid '90s and took up residence in a small studio in Oakland County.

I first learned of Sasha through Father John Christ, OSC, the former pastor of St. Dennis Parish in Royal Oak. Fr. Christ had given this young Russian immigrant virtually unlimited freedom in painting two gigantic murals in an otherwise plain box of a building. The result was magnificent.

In 1996-99 we were engaged in the repainting of our church interior. Jeffery Duschene, who was the lead on the project, told me of a "starving artist" who had completed a series of icons for an Orthodox congregation in Cleveland – but the church closed leaving the artist unpaid. The icons needed a home and the artist needed the sale.

The artist was Sasha who walked into St. Ambrose toting several of these icons and propped them up on freshly painted side aisle wall. It was as if the walls had opened – precisely what icons throughout history are created to do, be "windows to heaven."

Unlike Western religious art, icons were never meant to be portraits. Instead, they are called to "indicate," to give an idea or a hint about what they represent using just two dimensions. These simplified visual indications help the viewer focus on prayer.

Sasha put his icons in a most unorthodox location — in the nave — where they were part of the congregation — not on an iconostasis screen for which they had been painted. The Eastern custom is to keep the holy rites shielded from public view. Now these images of saints became one with those who had come to pray here.

I worried about how the congregation here at Ambrose might react to this infusion of images – our church interior had always been pretty plain. But from the minute these icons made their appearance, they were loved. So, after rejection and years in storage, these icons had found their home in this un-orthodox Christian communion.

The icon collection reflected the preferences of that Cleveland con-

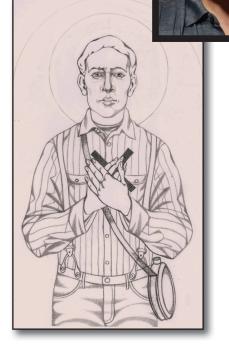
gregation's sanctoral favorites. Sasha joked that the images were picked probably because they were the names of the pastor and his family.

Over time, I worked with Sasha to Americanize the line-

comfortable that the saints in our icons still had not "integrated" enough to reflect the diversity of our time and place. By now, Sasha was no longer a struggling artist, but well established master in what was known as the Analytical Art Method — a Russian avant-garde philosophy of drawing where the artist attempts to reveal the inner soul of the object onto the canvas. Zorin had begun to apply this style to his religious

works as well.

By the 2020s, Sasha didn't really need more work. I pleaded with him that our collection would not tell the true story of saints if it only pictured Caucasian faces. He worried that he could no lon-



up. When our school was struggling, I commissioned an icon of **St. Katherine Drexel** – the Philadelphian heiress to a banking fortune who used her wealth to found schools across the country for African American and Native Indian children. In our icon, she holds an image of St. Ambrose Academy.

I later asked Sasha to paint an icon of **Blessed Solanus Casey**. That seemed a natural for the beloved Capuchin miracle worker who was personally known to so many here on Detroit's East Side.

Time passed and I became un-

ger paint like he did thirty years ago. I told him we didn't want *copies*, but *neighbors*. He channeled the art of the Middle Ages and I trusted him to do so again with contemporary saints.

Sasha agreed to paint two more icons for us. He remarked that he was still getting calls from people who saw his icons share the screen with Clint Eastwood in *Gran Torino*.

For the new subject matter, one would honor the Mexican martyr **St.Toribio Romo González** who was killed during the anti-clerical perse-

Continued on page 4....

All Things Considered

Continued from page three...

cutions of the Cristero War in 1928. Bishop Don Hanchon told me of the great devotion that he and many immigrants have for this holy man who, in spite of being dead for decades, would make unscheduled appearances to today's migrants in the desert (sometimes in religious garb, sometimes dressed as a migrant himself) assisting families with encouragement and fresh water.

The second subject would honor Catholic African-American women. I was drawn to Blessed Sr. Thea Bowman, teacher, musician, liturgist and scholar who made major contributions to the ministry of the Catholic Church toward African Americans. Out of her many accomplishments she is fondly remembered as the woman who interjected herself at a meeting of the US Catholic bishops and got them to sing and hold hands! Thea was heroic in her suffering from breast cancer. She died in 1990.

Sasha had a large, charitable heart and I think he was intrigued by these two new icons. Sasha was personally involved in assisting refugees from the war in Ukraine and spoke mournfully about the innocent suffering he encountered with his visits back there. He was preparing for a return visit. But first, he accepted an invitation to be "artist in residence" at Interlochen this summer. I, of course, gave him all the time he needed to do both.

But time for any of us is not a guarantee. Last Sunday, Sasha was killed by a power boat while swimming in Lower Straights Lake in Commerce Township. The accident happened just about the time we were proclaiming the Gospel account of Jesus reaching out his hand to save Peter from drowning. I know he did that for Sasha.

It is a huge loss for the art community. Sasha was a model for those who still see their talents as "God given" and are not afraid to show that to others. Sasha saw Christ, angels and saints everywhere and wanted everyone to realize they were closer than it often appears.

Faith Formation Station

"It is better to be a child of God than king of the whole world."
- St. Aloysius

My summertime bulletin articles will feature all the catechists and students in our program. It is my honor to introduce to you our kindergarten and third grade catechists from the 2022-2023 faith formation year. God bless the catechists, students and their families this summer! We look forward to seeing them back in the classroom in the fall.

Kindergarten:

Kindergarten faith formation introduces students to the classroom experience of shared prayer, Bible stories, and learning about God's love for us. Students learn the Sign of the Cross and are introduced to other prayers including the Guardian Angel prayer.



Melissa Villarreal-Keast:

My family and I have been members of St. Ambrose for a couple of years. We joined during the first year of Covid. I am an International Development Manager for Little Caesar's (PIZZA! PIZZA!), which means I open new stores in new markets around the world. My husband's name is Jason and I am mom to Isla (8), Theia (7) and Roya

(5) and two fur babies! My hobbies include photography (I am also a part-time photographer), working out and cooking with family. I am thrilled at the opportunity to be a catechist this year. Last year, I had such a great time volunteering in the 2nd grade classroom and helping them prepare for their first Holy Communion and I wanted to do more this year. I also love meeting new people and being part of such a wonderful community!

Grade 3:

In third grade the students learn about the characteristics of the Catholic Church from its earliest beginnings and what it means to be a member. They study the four marks of the Church: that it is one, holy, catholic and apostolic. As part of their deepening understanding of the church, they are introduced to the idea that involvement is not limited to Sunday worship. Our Church has a mission to the world, and each of us is called to serve and to be a witness for justice and peace.

Rachel McKenzie:

I have been married to my husband Mike for almost 10 years and we have 3 beautiful children. I currently work as a pediatric dental assistant. I have been working in religious education with Kelly, my sister-in-law, for 9 years. Prior to dental assisting, I was a pre-kindergarten teacher in Grosse Pointe. I am currently a member of St. Clare of Montefalco but truly enjoy volunteering at St. Ambrose. In my free time I love to read and spend time with my family. This year is extremely special to me as I will be teaching 3rd grade with my beautiful niece. I truly love teaching and I truly love the Lord. I enjoyed sharing the love of Christ with my students this year.

Cassidy Woolums:

I will be a Senior at GP South. I have been a classroom assistant and catechist for 3 years and enjoy sharing my faith and my love of art with younger children. I play and teach piano, as well as play and coach soccer. In addition to volunteering for the church, I share my talents with the greater community through playing with kids through Summer in the City, teaching art at Alternatives for Girls, and playing piano at the Helm and the Rivers. In my free time I also love to draw, paint, read, and hang out with friends.



Registration for 2023-2024:

Our online registration can be found on the parish website. The registration deadline is September 10, 2023. Be sure to register on time; after the deadline we cannot guarantee availability as some classes may fill.

Catechists & Volunteers Needed:

We need a few new catechists for the upcoming year, as well as classroom assistants. If you or someone you know might be called to the ministry of sharing faith with the children of St. Ambrose parish, please consider joining our catechetical team. We will provide you with all the support you need. If interested, please email the religious education office at reled.stambrose@comcast.net.

Kelly Woolums

Listen More to Young people

Concluded from page 2

church, we should not neglect the millions of young people already active in the church who are eager for their gifts to be more often accepted.

There are small steps we can take today, like making sure young people are invited to serve on parish councils — and that parish meetings accommodate the schedules of working adults and young parents — that could foster greater involvement among young people. But as the synod looks at more fundamental structural reforms to church governance, participants should not overlook or underestimate the skills, energy and dedication young people are already prepared to offer the church.

Young people will always be among us, and as Pope Francis said at his first World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro in 2013, they are sometimes called to "make a mess." The church's job is not to clean up after them but to harness their restless, creative energy in service of the kingdom.

Editorial: America Magazine, A Jesuit Review, August 9, 2023.

2 0 CSA2 3 Box Scores

Number of Families	800
Returns to date	128
Average Gift in '23	\$586.00
AoD Quota in '23.	\$97,755
Property/Liability Insurance .	\$57,600
Adjusted parish target	\$155,355
Received as of 8/16/23	\$76,371

- Our CSA goal is higher this year by \$4,086, but it will be as challenging to meet as it was in 2022.
- The insurance premium listed roughly \$1,107 a week – is the cost of our property and liability coverage for the parish.
- Once we meet the AoD quota, anything given to the CSA comes directly back to our parish without the usual 7% deduction.
- 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: Office Manager: Peggy O'Connor

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, August 21

St. Pius X, pope

Tuesday, August 22

The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary 8:30 a.m. – Mass – Joseph Saady

Wednesday, August 23

St. Rose of Lima, virgin

Thursday, August 24

St. Bartholomew, apostle

7:00 p.m. – Mass – Frank Maiumi

Friday, August 25

St. Louis & St, Joseph Colasanz, priest 12:00 p.m. – Mass – Charles Joseph;

Deb DeRizzi

Saturday, August 26

Weekday 20th week in Ordinary Time 1:30 p.m. – Wedding – Denise Kummer & Paul Huston

 $4:00 \ p.m. - Mass - For All People$

Sunday, August 27

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time 8:30 – Mass – For All People 11:15 – Mass – For All People



Scriptures for the 20th week in Ordinary Time

August 21

Jgs 2: 11-19

Ps 106: 34-37, 39-40, 43ab, 44

Mt 19: 16-22

August 22

Jgs 6: 11-24a Ps 85: 9, 11-14

Mt 19: 23-30

August 23

Jgs 9: 6-15

Ps 21: 2-7

Mt 20: 1-16

August 24

Rv 21: 9b-14

Ps 145: 10-13, 17-18

Jn 1: 45-51

August 25

Ru 1: 1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22 Ps 146: 5-10

Mt 22: 34-40

August 26

Ru 2: 1-3, 8-11; 4: 13-17

Ps 128: 1-5 Mt 23: 1-12

August 27

Is 22: 19-23 Ps 138: 1-3, 6, 8 Rom 11: 33-36 Mt 16: 12-20

20th Sunday in Ordinary 7ime August 19th & 20th

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

Psalm 98: All The Ends Of The Earth #801 or All The Ends Of The Earth #564

Preparatory: Lord You Are The Healing #525 **Communion**: We Are Many Parts #587

Recessional: Companions On The Journey #592



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



Number of envelopes used42

Our Sick

Please for those pray 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, Janis Ramsey, Gilewicz, Al LaHood, Colette Valerie Hudson, Jeanene Maples, Angela Hansen, Marilyn Potenga, John Freund, Kevin O'Connor, and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with Covid.



The 2023 CSA is in full swing. The Archdiocese of Detroit sent out a mailing with donor information and return envelopes. We encourage you to read through the materials and let us know if you have questions.

When you make a gift to the CSA, you support the work of more than 170 ministries, services, and programs in the Archdiocese of Detroit that respond each day to the material and spiritual needs of countless individuals and their families. If you would prefer to make your gift directly to St. Ambrose online using a credit card, debit card or an ACH withdrawal (we then make sure it is paid to the AoD), click on the QR code on page 5 in the "CSA Box Scores" box.

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