

St. Ambrose Parish

NOVEMBER 19, 2023
BEEHIVE



“Grace and gratitude belong together like heaven and earth. Grace evokes gratitude like the voice of an echo. Gratitude follows grace like thunder does lightning.” — Karl Barth, Church Dogmatics

Author Anne Lamott writes of the natural movement of gratitude from our hearts in prayer to our lives in action: Gratitude begins in our hearts and then dovetails into behavior... We mysteriously find ourselves willing to pick up litter in the street, or let others go first in traffic...

You breathe in gratitude, and you breathe it out, too. Once you learn how to do that, then you can bear someone who is unbearable. My general-purpose go-to mystic Rumi said, “There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground,” and bearing the barely bearable is one of the best.

When we go from rashy and clenched to grateful, we sometimes get to note the experience of grace, in knowing that we could not have gotten ourselves from where we were stuck, in hate or self-righteousness or self-loathing (which are the same thing), to freedom. The movement of grace in our lives toward freedom is the mystery. So we simply say “Thanks.” Something had to open, something had to give, and I don’t have a clue how to get things to do that. But they did, or grace did.

Lamott writes of the exponential flow of gratitude in our lives:

Saying and meaning “Thanks” leads to a crazy thought: What more can I give? We take the action first, by giving — and then the insight follows, that this fills us. Sin is not the adult bookstore on the corner. It is the hard heart, the lack of generosity, and all the isms, racism and sexism and so forth. But is there a crack where a ribbon of light might get in, might sneak past all the roadblocks and piles of stones, mental and emotional and cultural?...

How can something so simple be so profound, letting others go first, in traffic or in line at Starbucks, and even if no one cares or notices? Because for the most part, people won’t care — they’re late, they haven’t heard back from their new boyfriend, or they’re fixated on the stock market. And they won’t notice that you let them go ahead of you. They take it as their due.

But you’ll know. And it can change your whole day, which could be a way to change your whole life. There really is only today, although luckily that is also the eternal now. And maybe one person in the car in the lane next to you or in line at the bank or at your kid’s baseball game will notice your casual generosity and will be touched, lifted, encouraged — in other words, slightly changed for the better — and later will let someone else go first. And this will be quantum.

The movement of grace toward gratitude brings us from the package of self-obsessed madness to a spiritual awakening. Gratitude is peace.

Fr. Richard Rohr’s Daily Meditation from the Center for Action and Contemplation, November 7, 2023

Are we doing enough to keep the pandemic alive?

Nearly five months ago, on May 5, 2023, the World Health Organization declared an end to the global COVID health emergency. After three long years, the government no longer considered us to be living in a pandemic.

It was good to hear. The fear, the anxiety, the illness and the death that swept over the planet along with the coronavirus pandemic was like something out of a Hollywood screenplay. For the millions upon millions of people who suffered through those years, the phrase “in these uncertain times” should now come with a trigger warning.

Yet, for many of us, the pandemic brought with it thin, but very real, silver linings. We spent more time checking in with loved ones. We rediscovered hobbies and quality family time. Suddenly working from home, I got to see my daughter take her first steps. And we, as Catholics, made more time for God.

This last point isn't just anecdotal, although most of us could probably give an example of how we turned to our faith more during those crazy months and years. (The image of Pope Francis on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica blessing the world via livestream with the Blessed Sacrament has become iconic of the time.) Rather, it is borne out in research released in August by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA).

The pandemic achieved what a lot of evangelization campaigns over the past 20 years weren't as successful at doing, said Mark Gray, a research associate professor at Georgetown University and CARA's director, in a recent webinar hosted by the Catholic Media Association. With parishes shut down, Catholics were forced into finding new ways to remain connected to their faith, resulting in “a real change of habits,” he said.

People of all ages started attending virtual Bible study groups, discussing the Faith in online forums, engaging the parish pastor on Zoom, searching on faith-related content on social media or apps, or reading Scripture online. “When prayer wasn't necessarily available through Sunday service, they found it through Catholic media,” Gray said.

Thanks to the pandemic, more people began listening and watching religious content online. More Catholics began to engage with their diocesan or national Catholic news outlets (happy news, for us in the Catholic media biz).

I certainly did some of those things; maybe you did, too. And you might have other examples you would add to the list of how your habits changed during those strange years.

That good faith habits were formed during the pandemic is cause for rejoicing, for hope, and most definitely worthy of notation. But, now that the pandemic is officially over, and life has basically returned to “normal,” are we keeping these good habits?

A helpful exercise might be to think back specifically to how our behaviors changed because we were in a time of pandemic. What did we make time for that might now have slipped off our radars (and I don't mean creating the perfect sourdough starter or playing more board games — though those are worthy ways to pass the time)? If our prayer lives changed for the better during the pandemic, has that change maintained three years hence? If we made more time for spiritual reading then, can we say the same now? Are we watching or listening to the same amount of Catholic content as we were three years ago? Are we as connected with our parish communities — either virtually or in-person — now as we intentionally made the choice to be then? If the answers are yes — fantastic. If they are no, perhaps we could consider why not?

This question extends to our relationships, as well. Are we connecting with family in the same way now as we did then? Are we checking in on the elderly? Are we coming together rather than coming apart? Are we taking one another for granted, or are we cherishing every moment in the way that only a time of great uncertainty pushes us to do?

In other words, now that the pandemic is finally over, how are we keeping it alive?

*Written by Gretchen R. Crowe, September 26, 2023 for **Our Sunday Visitor**. For more, please visit oursundayvisitor.com*

Conflict in the Holy Land Help families today with critical relief

Your help is needed for families affected by violence in the Holy Land! Since early morning October 7, hostilities in the Holy Land have continued. Thousands have been killed and even more are wounded. An estimated 1 million people are displaced. There is great risk of additional suffering in the Holy Land.

Pope Francis has called on people worldwide to “pray that there be peace in Israel *and* Palestine.”

Catholic Relief Services and Caritas partners on the ground need immediate support to meet urgent humanitarian needs as the situation intensifies. Careful to adapt as the context changes, we are assisting people who are especially vulnerable, prioritizing first aid and care, bedding, winter supplies and cash vouchers.

With your gift, families affected by violence in Gaza and wherever needed in the Holy Land will receive assistance. Your prayers and support will make so much difference. Please give a vital gift today through Catholic Relief Services.

To make a donation please visit CRS.org or by calling 1-877-435-7277.

All Things Considered

Following the installation of Bishop Jeffery Monforton last week, Archbishop Vigneron has realigned the duties of his auxiliary bishops.

As he begins his ministry, Bishop Monforton will serve as episcopal moderator for the Archdiocese of Detroit's South Region, which includes Monroe County and parts of Wayne County outside of the city of Detroit, where he mentioned he's looking forward to being "neighbors" again with his mother, Virginia.

Current Auxiliary Bishop Gerard Battersby, who currently serves the South Region, will become moderator of the Northwest Region (Oakland and Lapeer counties).

Auxiliary Bishop Arturo Cepeda, who currently serves the Northwest Region, will serve the Central Region (the cities of Detroit, Hamtramck and Highland Park) with assistance from Msgr. Charles Kosanke. That was the territory formerly assigned to Auxiliary Bishop Don Hanchon who retired earlier this year.

Auxiliary Bishop Robert Fisher will remain episcopal moderator of the Archdiocese's Northeast Region, which includes Macomb and St. Clair counties, as well as the Grosse Pointes.



We've entering into one of the most busy times of the year and that is true for you as well as for our parish.

It will be a very quick Advent in 2023 since the Fourth Sunday of Ad-

vent is actually Christmas Eve – December 24th. So all that we will experience of that final week of Advent will be the time between 4:00 on Saturday through 4:00 on Sunday.

Packed into the three weeks prior we need to accomplish some significant tasks.

- Our Second Grade Religious Education Students will be introduced to the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. The parish as a whole

an opportunity for a one-on-one session with me. Bishop John Quinn will be here on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6th to confer that sacrament.

- The whole student body in our Religious Education Program will be involved in an interactive experience on Sunday, December 17th – "Morning in Bethlehem." Set up in our parking lot will be a miniature representation of King David's Royal City with inhabitants conducting their daily jobs. Some live animals will be here

to make the scent more authentic. And in the midst of that you will meet two other visitors to that town, by the names of Joseph and Mary. Bethlehem will be open to all in between masses on that day.

- This is a great season of gift giving, inspired by the gift that God gave us in Jesus. Our St. Vincent dePaul Society will help your family connect with a neighbor in need.

- As you do your Christmas shopping you'll want to include a gift for the Pregnancy Aid Society. We are a pro-life Church and that means being there in a very practical way for new-borns and their

families. In selecting a gift for this, think about the kinds of things that are presents at a baby shower. These gifts are usually collected at our Christmas Masses, but you can also have your gifts shipped directly to the parish. This allows you to think about some larger items for a nursery or infant care. Just make certain that if you ship things to the parish, include "PREGNANCY AID" somewhere on the shipping address label so we can easily identify it from our regular deliveries.



Top: Students from our 8th Grade confirmation class
Bottom: Net Ministries group

will have an opportunity to celebrate Communal Penance on the evening of December 20th at 7:00 p.m.

- Students in our Confirmation Program will finish up their preparation. They were a part of a day-long retreat which was conducted a week ago. Ambrosian students joined the students from St. Paul as well as the students from St. Clare and St. Isaac Jogues. The photos on this page give you some idea of the energy that comes with a group that size. Over the next couple of weeks, each of our candidates will have



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.

The Buzz

THE END OF TIME IS APPROACHING!

... well, at least the end of the Church calendar year only has about two weeks left. The first Sunday of December (!) will find us entering Advent and a new liturgical year. But as the darkness of each day continues to grow here in the northern hemisphere, the scriptural themes at mass help us to reflect on our own mortality and the preparation for the harvest-accounting of our lives before the Lord.

This is not done in some brooding, self-pitying mood. Rather, it has to do with an honest, energetic, and hopeful assessment of what we have produced in the “economy of salvation” (not to be confused with whatever people perceive as the state of the American Economy!) and what we have become in the process. If you want a criteria checklist to see how you’re doing, just pay close attention to the gospels for these last Sundays of the year. If you find you are on the right track, your Thanksgiving this week will be deeper and richer than ever before. If not, still celebrate Thanksgiving with an earnest pledge to quickly get on board, because in God’s good time it is never too late. As is said in the words of that great mystic, Y. Berra: “It ain’t over till it’s over.”



This week, we in the United States celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. More than twenty years ago, our American bishops produced a book of blessings and prayers for use in Catholic homes. They recommended the three days before Thanksgiving as a most appropriate time to prepare for the feast by utilizing fasting, prayer, and works of charity to emphasize our thankful dedication to caring for the blessings of our land and all its people – especially the poor. Try it out a little at home this week ... especially in the presence of children. After all, Eucharist is the truest Thanksgiving, and communion with Jesus connects us with everything and everyone God has created.



Next Sunday is the last one of November and of the Church Year. I have always had a bit of a problem with the title of that weekend’s liturgical celebration – The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Why is a monarchical title, now expanded into the entire cosmos, a good analogy for how Jesus relates to you and me (or to anyone) today? As they used to say in school-day essay exams: compare and contrast Jesus with the world-famous coronation that took place this past spring in England.

As I reflect on the concept of any sort of “king,” a different inner voice grabs my attention for meditation on the term. The voice is that of the praying Church in the Liturgy of Baptism for Children.

Regularly I have the privilege of meeting with parents who are requesting Baptism for their children. As part of the conversation/preparation, I share with them the outline of the ceremony so that they might better appreciate the richness of the ritual words and symbols.

In the anointing of the child (on the crown of the head!) with chrism oil right after the baptism by water, the minister actually pronounces a challenge (!) to the child with some of the most beautiful and profound words of the entire ceremony. The challenge is this: “As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life.” Think of it: every one of us who is baptized is supposed to be a king (to be gender-inclusive, read: royalty)! How? Like Jesus.

Continued on following page

Next Sunday's readings remind us that being in charge and in judgment over others is not the style of royalty that Jesus offers us. His kingdom of "truth" may seem unrealistic to the world because its power focuses on compassion, humility, forgiveness, nonviolence and justice rather than on competition, inequality, belligerence, vengeance and violence. Pilate just couldn't understand. How would American voters respond to such qualities today?

As baptized Christians we are supposed to know better. And if we do, the challenge for us is all the greater: in which kingdom do we choose to live right now?!

So, next Sunday is really also our feast because of the Baptismal incorporation we enter into with Christ the King. Feel regal? At least let's end the liturgical year by honoring one another and treating each other with royal respect.

And one more thought: pure royalty does the ruling; it is not ruled. That means that through, with, and in Christ the King, we are not supposed to let the values of the world determine how we live. No political parties, commentators, nor any others are supposed to rule us. But as Christ said, we are the ones who are supposed to make a difference in the world around us. We are supposed to be yeast, salt, and light. His values are to rule through us.

Nobody said this royalty stuff would be easy – no jeweled crowns, scepters, orbs, or fancy robes are part of the package deal. In fact, the chief public declaration of kingship for Jesus was posted above his head on the cross.

Chuck Dropiewski




Our next Motor City Makeover tour with John Gallagher will be held on Saturday December 2nd starting at 3:00 p.m. and returning here by 7:00 p.m. after all the holiday lights are lit.

The focus of the tour is the Winter Downtown-Detroit Christmas Market at Cadillac Square. The Market brings a wide variety of family-friendly activities. Check them out at <https://www.deckedoutdetroit.com/winter-markets>.

This trip is self-directed with exploration at your own pace and interests. Accordingly, a degree of physical mobility is necessary, unless you just want to sit in the Cadillac Lodge to sample tasty treats and festive drinks. Grab something to eat there or at one of the food trucks. The Monroe Street Midway will be outfitted with winter games for youngsters and the 1001 Winter Wonders exhibit at that address on Woodward is another option. There is even an opportunity to ice skate under the giant tree at Campus Martius.

As always, tickets can be purchased from our front office or online by scanning this code with your smart phone!



2	0	CSA
2	3	Box Scores
Number of Families 800		
Returns to date 164		
Average Gift in '23 \$579		
AoD Quota in '23 \$97,755		
Property/Liability Insurance ... \$57,600		
Adjusted parish target \$155,355		
Received as of 10/25/23 \$94,947		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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: Joshua Burcroff

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, November 20

Weekday 33rd week in Ordinary Time

Tuesday, November 21

Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 a.m. – Mass – Darlene Sue Young

Wednesday, November 22

St. Cecelia, virgin & martyr

Thursday, November 23

St. Clement I, pope & martyr

Friday, November 24

St. Andrew Dung Lac and

Companions, martyrs

12:00 p.m. – Mass – Fr. J.P. Wagner

Saturday, November 25

St. Catherine of Alexandria, martyr

4:00 p.m. – Mass – For All People

Sunday, November 26

Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

8:30 – Mass – For All People

11:15 – Mass – For All People



Scriptures for the 33rd week in Ordinary Time

November 20

1 Mc 1: 10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-53

Ps 119: 53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158

Lk 18: 35-43

November 21

2 Mc 6: 18-31

Ps 3: 2-7

Lk 19: 1-10

November 22

2 Mc 7: 1, 20-31

Ps 17: 1, 5-6, 8, 15

Lk 19: 11-28

November 23

1 Mc 2: 15-29

Ps 50: 1-2, 5-6, 14-15

Lk 19: 41-44

November 24

1 Mc 4: 36-37, 52-59

(Ps) 1 Chr 29: 10-12

Lk 19: 45-48

November 25

1 Mc 6: 1-13

Ps 9: 2-4, 6, 16, 19

Lk 20: 27-40

November 26

Ez 34: 11-12, 15-17

Ps 23: 1-3, 5-6

1 Cor 15: 20-26, 28

Mt 25: 31-46

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 18th & 19th

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

Entrance: In The Day Of The Lord #580

Psalm: O Blessed are Those #814

Preparatory: I Received The Living God #320

Communion: 10,000 Reasons #562

Recessional: Now Thank We All Our God #200



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, November 12, 2023

in envelopes we received \$3,246.00

in the loose collection..... \$1,588.00

in electronic donations..... \$3,251.28

for a total of \$8,055.28

Under budget for the week..... \$2,044.72

Number of envelopes mailed 621

Number of envelopes used 57



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, Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Anne Billiu, 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, Colette Gilewicz, Al LaHood, Valerie Hudson, Jeanene Maples, Angela Hansen, John Freund, Kevin O'Connor, Tiffany Saine, and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with Covid.



Pray Every Day

Could you be searching for a fresh new way to pray every day of the year? *Daily Prayer 2024* is your guide to prayer that includes scripture, psalmody, a brief reflection, general intercessions, and a closing prayer. It is ideal for personal and family reflection upon the word of God. This also makes an excellent gift for a senior, newlyweds or for a student away at college.

These prayerbooks are \$10 each — which is a modest investment in someone's spiritual formation. To pick up a copy of this year's *Daily Prayer 2024*, call the rectory office at 822-2814, or purchase online at stambrosechurch.net.

Evangelical Charity & Prison Ministry Presentation

Last Sunday our religious education students in grades three through seven participated in a special Evangelical Charity presentation and service project. The focus of this presentation and project was on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and prison ministry. The presentation was given by Lisa Thams, a community leader of the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree program in the GP area for 23 years. She was joined by her son, Giovanni Thams, who has grown up helping with this program all his life. The Thams family talked about how the choices that lead to a prison sentence, as well as the distance created by incarceration, can strain a prisoner's family ties and resources. At Christmas, the emotional pain of a loved one's incarceration grows even more intense and the distance is felt by children and parents alike. The talk emphasized how we are called to be Jesus' hands and feet in the world, and that our love and care for our neighbors seen and unseen matters. Together we prayed for those who are incarcerated, for their families, for justice, for empathy, for forgiveness, and for hope.

After the presentation, our religious education students went back to their classrooms to make candy cane wreath ornaments for children who have incarcerated parents. These handmade ornaments will be given out along with blankets and Christmas gifts from the St. Paul on the Lake giving tree. During Christmas, Prison Fellowship Angel Tree™ delivers a Christmas gift and the Gospel to children on behalf of their incarcerated parent, helping families stay strong and connected. By reaching prisoners and their families with the message of God's unconditional love, volunteers help heartbroken families know they are precious and valued in God's eyes. If you would like to learn more about Prison Fellowship Angel Tree™, you can look them up online at <https://www.prisonfellowship.org/about/angel-tree/angel-tree-christmas/> or reach out the religious education office and we will connect you with the Thams family and their local outreach.

Kelly Woolums



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