

**Fr. David Huffman, Pastor, St. Ambrose Church** 5080 School House Road, Little Hocking, OH 45742

**Parish Website:** [stambroseohio.org](http://stambroseohio.org)

**Parish Office email:** [parishoffice@midohio.twcbc.com](mailto:parishoffice@midohio.twcbc.com)

***“Without the Priest there is no Eucharist; without the Eucharist there is no Church.”***

**Weekend Mass schedule: Saturday @ 5:00 pm and Sunday @ 8:00 and 10:00 am.**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (confessions): Saturday @ 4:15 p.m. or anytime requested.**

## **THOUGHTS FOR THE 24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Some weekends it is rather difficult to determine the main message of the Scripture readings. Not so this weekend. The message is very clear, consistent, and forceful: **be forgiving as the Lord is forgiving; there is no limit to forgiveness, “seventy times seven times.”**

Someone said that what we need are Teflon-coated memories—memories to which nothing sticks, especially past slights or hurts, it is human to let our hurts “build up,” to gunnysack them and carry them through days and sometimes years. The first and third readings this Sunday make it clear this is a needless burden that encumbers, impedes progress and –worst of all destroys the bridge over which each person must pass. To be forgiven, we need to be forgiving!

Holding a grudge is often a sin that brings its own punishment. A person who cannot forgive often becomes bitter, cynical, suspicious, ill-at-ease, and generally miserable. Like acid, vengeance hurts the avenger more than the object of revenge. Jesus never says it is easy to forgive. Yet forgiveness is the heart of Jesus’ Gospel message.

Grudge-holding is often so terrible and painful, because many times it is against a person once dearly loved and highly respected by us—a husband or wife, brother or sister, friend, or business partner.

To forgive does not necessarily mean we have to like that person or again be as close as friends. Nor does to forgive mean to condone or approve of the injury another has done to us. It means accepting the hurt and not retaliating. And that’s tough! That is why prayers is so necessary. Without the help of God, who can really and truly forgive others? Without prayer, how can we receive strength from God? Prayer is the fulcrum, but the Eucharist, the Sacrament of Love, is the lever. The Eucharist, coupled with prayer, can move any heart. Someone once said, “You cannot swallow Christ in Holy Communion if you cannot swallow your neighbor.” Saints aren’t perfect people. A saint is a sinner who keeps on trying, most of all, being a forgiving person.

To forgive or not to forgive? In a sense, like the Nike slogan, Jesus is telling us to **“Just do it”** and keep doing it!

## **54-DAY ROSARY NOVENA.**

**Beginning Friday, September 15th**, Catholics across the state of Ohio will be joining in prayer for the protection of human life and dignity and the defeat of the dangerous constitutional amendment on the Ohio ballot this November. A 54-Day Rosary Novena will be prayed from September 15th through Election Day, November 7th. Visit [www.pray54ohio.org](http://www.pray54ohio.org) for more information. (Take home a copy of the flyer in the gathering space)

## **SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

Our **Adult Bible Study** will resume Sunday, September 17, meeting in the A/B classroom immediately after the Sunday 8:00 am Mass. Sessions will last one hour. The group will begin the season with a study of the non-Pauline epistles, starting with the Letter to the Hebrews. All are welcome.

**November Election.** One of the most important elections in the history of the State of Ohio is coming up on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Every vote counts in determining whether our state will support and respect life for all people including the preborn. Are you registered to vote? If not, you will be given the opportunity to do so this weekend. You may register on a computer or by filling out a registration form. It only takes a few minutes, and you don't have to drive to Marietta to take advantage of this opportunity!

## **REMINDER TO PARENTS, STUDENTS AND TEACHERS.**

Summer is almost over, so it is time to begin our **Parish School of Religion (PSR)**, classes began last Sunday, September 10th, 9:00 to 9:45 am; that is between our two Sunday morning Masses. Classes are for pre-K through 7th grade. These classes will go a long way towards helping your children better understand the faith, what Christ calls each of us to do and the rewards we will receive if we embrace His commandments and receive His Sacraments. All youth of our parish are expected to attend these classes if they are to receive the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation. Students are also expected to celebrate one of our weekend Masses, Saturday evening or Sunday morning, with their parent(s).

## **25th ANNIVERSARY MASS. .**

**Bishop Jeffrey Monforton** will be visiting St. Ambrose Parish and celebrating the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday, October 8th. This is a celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the First Mass in St. Ambrose Church, Little Hocking, in October 1998. At no cost to you, there will be a catered meal after the Mass, so you'll have the opportunity to say hello to our Bishop, spend some time with our Catholic Community and enjoy good food, along with a program to review our first twenty-five years. It is not very often that we get to visit with our Bishop, so I know you will be most welcoming of him and his visit.

## **ADULT CLASSES, CALLED O.C.I.A. WILL CONTINUE NEXT WEEK.**

Do you know anyone who has expressed interest in joining the Church? Are you interested in learning more about your Faith? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, RCIA, now renamed **OCIA, Order of Christian Initiation of Adults**, will meet this coming Tuesday at 6:30 pm in Ambrose Hall. Our time to eat will last about one-half hour and our class will last about one hour as we plan to end at about 8:00 pm. I have sent more than a dozen letters to adults who may be interested in our classes. Please pray that many of them will respond to my invitation.

## **LIFE CHAIN.**

Each of us needs to do our part in protecting God's greatest gift: LIFE. We will be holding a peaceful protest to inform people about the evils of abortion. We will gather on **Sunday, October 1st**, from 2:00 to 3:00 pm, along Washington Blvd above Fruth Pharmacy. Signs will be provided. It may not seem like much against the horrors of abortion, but these peaceful protests will be done all across the country. Please come join us and God will multiply our efforts and turn hearts toward Him.

## **JUBILEE OF MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARIES.**

Bishop Monforton will celebrate a Mass honoring marriage anniversaries on Sunday, November 19th, at 12 Noon Mass, St. Mary Basilica, Marietta. Couples who are celebrating their 10th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th, 60th and every year after are invited to celebrate the Mass and a reception afterwards. You need to tell your pastor that you would like to attend or contact the parish office to register. Please do so before October 13th.

**March for Life in Columbus** will be held Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. To reserve your seat and join the fight for Ohio's Right to Life, the Knights of Columbus councils from St. Mary, St. John, St. Bernard, and St. Ambrose, in a joint effort, are chartering bus accommodations for the October 6<sup>th</sup> Ohio March for Life in Columbus. We join with thousands of like-minded people to

show our support on this important issue. Together we can make this the biggest pro-life advocacy event that our state's capital has ever seen! All are invited. The cost is \$25 per person which also includes a sack lunch. Please contact John Ambrozy at ([jjambrozy@gamil.com](mailto:jjambrozy@gamil.com) or 304-481-8482) if you are interested or have any questions. Please see attachment at the bottom of this newsletter (flyer in gathering space) with more information and schedule of events.

**The CWC is hosting "Painting with Karlee"** on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 2:00 pm in St Ambrose Hall. You will have the opportunity to paint a beautiful sunset scene. Light snacks will be served. Please bring your favorite beverage. A \$10 donation is recommended to cover the cost. If you are interested please call Shelly Hess at 740-629-2644 or Kere Duffey at 740-350-8760 to reserve your spot. Bring a friend and enjoy creating together.

#### ***UP & COMING, HERE & THERE.***

- **Renew Your Spirit Ladies Retreat Day.** All of the ladies of St. Ambrose and surrounding churches are invited to join us here at St. Ambrose on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> for an uplifting day to renew your spirit. There will be music, talks given by Sally Turner and Carrie Rose, sharing ideas, confessions, lunch, and benediction. Ladies from St. Ambrose are asked to bring a salad, if possible. Flyers are available in the gathering space to register for this retreat. Registration forms (via attachment) are also available at the bottom of the newsletter.
- **Ladies of the Parish,** CWC is looking for your active role in our parish community. Please consider reaching out to participate in the many and varied activities that CWC has scheduled. Meeting date cards are in the Gathering Space. Text, call or step up and speak to a CWC officer and offer your enthusiasm and effort towards building a relationship with others. We'd love to get to know you! CWC Officers: Shelly Hess 740-629-2644, Carol Miller 765-423-7452, Mary Beth Bauman 740-885-8268, Kere Duffey 740-350-8760, Dianne Rauch 740-350-5375. Check out the CWC Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/stambrosecwc?mibextid=LQQJ4d>
- **CWC Outreach** is supporting House to Home (assistance to homeless and marginally housed persons in Parkersburg) by collecting donations. Our September collection includes gloves, handwarmers, men's socks, men's and women's casual shoes. Please place your donations in the House to Home box in the gathering space. Thank You!
- **Meeting of the Widows Ministry.** This meeting is open to all parish widows and is a ministry to comfort and connect. The widows of St. Margaret Mary's would like to cordially invite all widows from St Francis, St. Monica, St.. Michael and St. Ambrose to meet us for a Dutch-treat luncheon at Colombo's Restaurant at 12:30 pm on the following dates: Sept 24, Oct 22, Nov 12, and December 17<sup>th</sup>. This is a lovely group of women who gather for food, fellowship, and support. Please come and join us. To ensure adequate seating please contact one of us so we can reserve enough space. We are also happy to answer questions about this ministry. Judy Higgs 304-210-2783 or [jyanhiggs@aol.com](mailto:jyanhiggs@aol.com) or Rhonda Butcher 304-482-4597 call or text.
- **Dan Schutte, composer, and musician** will conduct a free concert at St. Margaret Mary Church this Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm with a reception to follow in the parish hall. Dan has composed songs such as "Here I am Lord", "You Are Near", and "Sing a New Song." The concert is in celebration of St. Margaret Mary's Centennial, and all area churches are welcome to attend.
- **Mary's House is having a Smoked Chicken & Pork Benefit Dinner** on Saturday, September 30, 2023, at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 307 7<sup>th</sup> street, Beverly, OH. Doors open at 4:00 pm and dinner will be served at 5:00 pm. Tickets are available at the door and Waterford Commercial & Savings Bank. Tickets are \$25 per person.
- **The CWC is once again collecting gently used seasonal decorations** for our CWC sale during the Vendor Fair on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Please save the date and plan to join us! Place items in the gathering space (or in the classroom which is back the hall on the left side of the lower level) before October 1<sup>st</sup>. The money received from the sale will go toward building a house for a needy family in Belize. Please do NOT bring large Christmas trees. Call Rita Rodgers at 740-423-5697 with any questions. Thank you for any donations you make. Any vendor who would like to reserve a table please contact Liz Morris at 740-350-1134.

**Travel to Washington DC with** Father David Huffman and Father Chester Pabin. They will be leading a pilgrimage to Washington DC on October 14-17, 2024. Points of interest include the Pope St. John Paul II Shrine, Franciscan Monastery Gardens and Chapels, Basilica of the National Shrine of Immaculate Conception, Holocaust Museum, and U.S. Botanical Gardens. We hope to have Mass each day. Please see the attached flyer at the bottom of this newsletter for details. Registrations will be taken on a first come, first served basis. Please follow the procedures at the bottom of the flyer to reserve your spot.

#### **ADDITIONAL ST. AMBROSE NEWS.**

- **Contributions** for the weekend of September 9/10 were \$1,193.10. DPSC contributions were \$200. Thank You!
- Our **pictorial directory** committee has reviewed the second rough draft and we expect to receive "2023" directory soon.

#### **Mass Times and Intentions for this week:**

SEPT 16, Saturday 5:00 pm:	Mark Bradley Deceased (Maxon Family)
SEPT 17, Sunday 8:00 am:	Ruth Currey (Mary Beth Nenni)
SEPT 17, Sunday 10:00 am:	People of the Parish
SEPT 18, Monday 11:00 am:	Julie Fugitt (Fr. Huffman)
SEPT 19, Tuesday 6:00 pm:	Clarence Shuff (Fr. Huffman)
SEPT 20, Wednesday 9:00 am:	Connie Brankel (Tom & Family)
SEPT 21, Thursday 9:00 am:	Szczesniak Family (Jeanne Rice)
SEPT 22, Friday 9:00 am:	Max Malone (Malone Family)

#### **Ministers for the Weekend of September 16/17 (Third Sunday)**

<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>Altar Server:</b> Matt Bremar, George Church <b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b> Mike & Carol Miller, Charlie Wilsbacher <b>Lector:</b> Sharon Feeney-Jones <b>Ushers:</b> Stu Deem, Volunteer <b>Greeters:</b> Susan Perry, Sandy McCallister, Joann Ollom
<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Altar Server:</b> Kenley & Isaac Schwendeman <b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b> Becky Hennen, Lynn Pierce <b>Lector:</b> Karen Waller <b>Ushers:</b> Francis Hayes, Scott Neill <b>Greeters:</b> Tricia & Averil Schwendeman
<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Altar Server:</b> Mike Aquino <b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b> Rosalie McDonald, Susan Rauch, Volunteer <b>Lector:</b> Joan Jacobsen <b>Usher:</b> Ray LeFebvre, Mark Sturm <b>Greeters:</b> Cecelia Brown, Michelle Yanok

**Parish Offices:** 740-423-7422; Ext #1 - Secretary office; Ext #2 - Pastor office; Ext #3 - Fr. Huffman, Rectory

<b>Organization Contacts:</b>	CWC	Shelly Hess	740-629-2644
	Cemetery	Rod Rauch	740-277-3350
	K of C	John Ambrozy	304-481-8482
	Maintenance	Bryan Hayes	740-525-7055
	Parish Council	Mike Miller	765-404-9275
	OCIA (formerly RCIA)	Andy Vesel	740-678-0008
	Religious Ed	Fr. David Huffman	740-423-7422
	Retreat House	Lynn Pierce	740-667-0100
	<b>Parishioners Helping Parishioners:</b> 740-423-7422 Ext #1; 740-336-2862		
	<b>Parishioners Praying for You:</b> 740-423-7422 Ext #1; 740-423-7364; 740-336-2862		