

# St. Ambrose Parish

MARCH 10, 2019  
BEEHIVE



## What our struggling Church needs

*As Lent begins this year, Catholics will likely be more than ready for it. After all the Church has been through in recent months – Lent could provide both a healing balm and a needed boost forward. We in the American Catholic Church have been through a year of tremendous suffering, upheaval and frustration with the continuing allegations of sexual misconduct and cover-up by our church leaders. Many Catholics are still shell shocked by it, and the question that remains is: “How do we move forward?” The following article discusses Pope Francis’ approach to the issue as seen through the lens of his experiences in South America.*

After a difficult 2018 and, above all, his own experience of misjudgment and mismanagement in the abuse crisis [in the Church] in Chile, Pope Francis has come to see that the problem is much deeper than it looks, for it involves a turning-away from Christ in his people. And it cannot be repaired merely by procedural or judicial mechanisms, necessary as these are. It will require a radical transformation — a turning-back to Christ.

We’re so used to hearing that Francis is “behind the curve” on the abuse issue. But in truth, he is well ahead of it. While most Catholics, not least bishops and religious orders, remain fixated on cleaning up the institution, demonstrating that it is now transparent and accountable and regulated by new measures, the pope has grasped that keeping the focus on the institution in this way is precisely the problem. This is apparent in the texts he addressed to the Chilean bishops and the people of God last year, which in turn draw on his meditations on institutional desolation as a Jesuit back in the 1980s. Both those texts of three decades ago and last year’s letters have

been collected and commented on by his Jesuit collaborators in Rome, Fr. Antonio Spadaro and Fr. Diego Fares, in a new book published in Italian and Spanish, *Las Cartas de la Tribulación* (“The Tribulation Letters”).

The heart of the pope’s message is a pithy little sentence that occurs back in his 1980s writings and again in his letters to the bishops of Chile and the United States: **“Ideas you discuss, but situations have to be discerned.”** Whenever the church faces a time of tribulation, there are various temptations it can succumb to: to recoil into itself, to put up defenses, to blame others, and essentially to argue — with others, and within itself. The church is prone to “ruminate” on its own desolation, lamenting and blaming, and at its worst falls into “victimism,” which, says Francis in his preface to the book, “conceals in its breast the resort to vengeance, which only feeds the evil it pretends to eliminate.”

All these are means of evading the real task, which is to seek the grace that is always on offer in desolation and tribulation: the grace of conversion. By accusing ourselves, not others — in humility, repentance, and self-correction — we open ourselves to that grace. We change. We are converted. We see where we went wrong. And with that new sight comes the chance to change course. The church’s task is not to lament and condemn, but rather to discern and reform.

Before the crisis in Chile, the pope had seen the abuse issue the way most people do, as a matter of balancing various principles — listening to victims and ensuring justice, yes, but also presuming the innocence of

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## What our struggling Church needs

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clergy until they were proven guilty, and minimizing the risk of abuse with new protocols and “best practices.” But Chile taught Francis that the root of the problem was clericalism, and the church’s resistance to the grace of conversion. It was clericalism that was behind the “institutional desolation.” The pope came to see the abuse crisis as “a change of ecclesial center”: away from the church serving Christ in his people, toward the institution serving itself at the expense of the people.

At the center of the crisis is a misuse of power: a priest or bishop who seeks to be served rather than to serve soon decides he has the right to claim money, sex, and other goods for himself, and uses his power to hide his misconduct. The abuse is threefold: of power and conscience, as well as of sex. Clericalism turns this chain of sin into a web of corruption in which the institution puts itself and its reputation at the center of its focus, turning away from Christ in the victim of abuse, whose voice is silenced. The church thus becomes “uprooted from the life of the people of God”; it becomes haughty and defensive.

If clericalism is the disease, synodality is the cure. Only when the church embraces its identity as what the Second Vatican Council said it was, the people of God, can the clericalist mentality behind the crisis be expunged. This means clergy and the hierarchy serving Christ in the people rather than the people serving priests as if they were Christ. It means getting over the institutional self-involvement that has led to so much desolation and denial, and putting the poor, the hungry, and the abused back at the center of the church’s attention, where they belong.

*This is an excerpt from an article which appeared in Commonweal Magazine on February 22, 2019 by Austen Ivereigh, the pope’s biographer. The full article “From Evasion to Conversion” can be accessed at [commonwealmagazine.org](http://commonwealmagazine.org).*

## Lenten Mission Projects

Here at St. Ambrose, we are promoting three different missionary projects this Lent and ask that you might participate in the one that best suits your ability or interest:

1. The students in our Religious Education Program will be asked to fill Lenten Folders with a sacrifice of a quarter a day. If you would like to join them in this, there are additional coin folders in the back of church. At the end of Lent, these contributions will go to the Kay Lasante Medical Mission in Haiti supported by **Bishop Gumbleton**.
2. **Joe Looney**, an Attorney/Ambrosian who is a member of Maryknoll Missionaries’ Lay Ministry Program, asks for hearing aides that could be refurbished and used for children with hearing losses in Peru. If you have an unused one of these medical devices, this is an excellent chance to repurpose it. Ask around, because I think there might be a lot of these pricy, older instruments languishing out there in drawers and medical offices. Drop off these hearing aides at the parish rectory. I’ve got one from my dad I’ve been holding onto which I’ll donate to start the process. Could we assemble ten or more of these before Easter? This could be a life-changer for ten kids.
3. **Deacon Anthony Kote-Wita** asks that families whose children have out-grown books consider sending them to children in his native Uganda. It’s there that such items are still considered luxuries. Deacon Anthony has established a means of shipping these books to Africa, so all we need to do is for parents, schools and libraries to sort through those books that have outlived their shelf-life and put them in the hands of youngsters who will consider even a used book a treasure. There’s a donation basket for these books in the back of church.

## Vincentian Reflection

In today’s Gospel, Jesus overcomes the temptations to wealth, power and esteem. As we begin Lent, may we open our hearts to the grace of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This Lent all of us would do well to ask ourselves: What is the greatest temptation I face as a follower of Jesus? Lent is a chance to reconnect with Jesus and align our thoughts and behaviors with His.

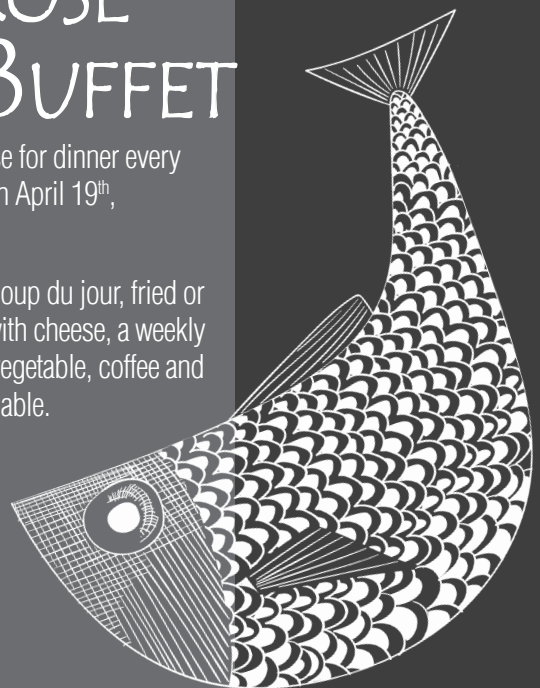
## ST. AMBROSE LENTEN BUFFET

Join us in the ARK at St. Ambrose for dinner every Friday in Lent, March 8<sup>th</sup> through April 19<sup>th</sup>, from 4 to 8 pm.

The menu includes a salad bar, soup du jour, fried or baked cod, tater tots, macaroni with cheese, a weekly special entrée, along with rolls, vegetable, coffee and tea. Desserts and drinks are available.

\$17.95 per adult  
\$10 for children aged 6 to 10  
Children 5 and under eat free.  
Carry-out service available

(313) 423-6284.



# All Things Considered

Lent is forty days. Forty also is a very significant number in the Bible. For instance, Scripture tells us that Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness struggling with temptation. Before the flood mentioned in Genesis, it rained for 40 days and 40 nights. The Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years.

What I also find significant is that most personal trainers, psychologists and coaches will tell you that it takes between 30 and 40 days (give or take a few) to “re-train” yourself in a new habit. So if you decide to eat healthier, or start exercising, or commit to flossing your teeth every day, it takes somewhere around 40 days to really get that routine ingrained in your life. That means when we commit to a spiritual habit for 40 days, we may actually be able to integrate that into our minds in a meaningful and significant way.



For our Lenten Buffet this year we feature the culinary talents of **Chef Reva Constantine** of the Great Lakes Culinary Center. In 2018, she was voted “Best Chef” in Hour Detroit’s 2018 Best of Detroit Readers’ Choice competition.

Advance tickets make a great introduction to our St. Ambrose Community. You can pick them up after mass. Be evangelical! Share a meal with those whom you can “softly” introduce to the faith and to our parish.

With a higher cost of food, we make no profit on food sales from our Fish Dinners even at \$17.95. But like most restaurants, we depend on impulse purchases including desserts and beverages. We also depend on a supply of free labor. That’s where you come into the picture. If you can give us a Friday of your time this Lent working for the dinner, call or sign up in the back of church.



We averaged the attendance at last year’s Lenten Fish Dinners and it came to 256 persons per week – with

the highest reaching 344 . That’s composed of crowds that come from far and wide. It truly is a great evangelical event. We have noted people returning back to church, registering in the parish, becoming a part of the RCIA and planning baptisms and weddings – all starting because of an experience they had at a Lenten Dinner. That’s the positive side.

However, if we were to have kept a tally of those who participated in Stations of the Cross on those same Lenten evenings, we’d average around 20. What’s wrong with this picture?

I worry that I have done too good a job selling the fellowship of our Lenten Dinners to the detriment of Lenten Devotions. The dinners continue to grow in popularity, while prayer does not.

The timing of our meal and devotions are meant to enhance each other, not compete with each other. If you come to an early dinner, you can conclude it with prayer. If you come to prayer, you can still catch a late dinner afterwards.

On each table in the ARK there is a card reminding and inviting our guests of this great opportunity to participate in this Lenten prayer activity. We have not attempted to coerce anyone into leaving their dinner to pray. But maybe we have been too subtle. Maybe we should try ringing a bell 10 minutes before Lenten Devotions begin as a way of calling people to prayer?

The Stations of the Cross are an ancient tradition in the Catholic Church going back to the fourth century when Christians went on pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Like many of our Catholic traditions, the Stations of the Cross can be rich, deep, and meaningful, but at the same time we can lose sight of their significance and how to relate them to our everyday lives.

**Pope Francis** gives us 8 reasons as to why we should pray the Stations of the Cross.

**1. They Allow Us to Place Our Trust in Christ.**

“The Cross of Christ contains all the love of God; there we find his immeasurable mercy. This is a love in which we can place all our trust, in which we can believe ... let us entrust

ourselves to Jesus, let us give ourselves over to him, because he never disappoints anyone! Only in Christ crucified and risen can we find salvation and redemption.” —*Address, World Youth Day, Way of the Cross, July 2013*

**2. They Put Us into the Story**  
“And you, who do you want to be? Like Pilate? Like Simon? Like Mary? Jesus is looking at you now and is asking you: do you want to help me carry the Cross? Brothers and sisters, with all the strength of your youth, how will you respond to him?” —*Address, World Youth Day, Way of the Cross, July 26, 2013*

**3. They Remind Us That Jesus Suffers with Us**

“The Cross of Christ bears the suffering and the sin of mankind, including our own. Jesus accepts all this with open arms, bearing on his shoulders our crosses and saying to us: ‘Have courage! You do not carry your cross alone! I carry it with you. I have overcome death and I have come to give you hope, to give you life’ (cf. Jn 3:16).” —*Address, World Youth Day, Way of the Cross, July 2013*

**4. They Compel Us to Action**  
“But the Cross of Christ invites us also to allow ourselves to be smitten by his love, teaching us always to look upon others with mercy and tenderness, especially those who suffer, who are in need of help, who need a word or a concrete action.” —*Address, World Youth Day, Way of the Cross, July 2013*

**5. They Help Us Make a Decision for or Against Christ**

“[The Cross] reveals a judgment, namely that God, in judging us, loves us. Let us remember this: God judges us by loving us. If I embrace his love then I am saved, if I refuse it, then I am condemned, not by him, but by my own self, because God never condemns, he only loves and saves.” —*Address, Good Friday, March 2013*

**6. They Reveal God’s Response to Evil in the World**

“The Cross is the word through which God has responded to evil in the world. Sometimes it may seem as though God does not react to evil, as if he is silent. And yet, God has spoken, he has replied, and his answer is the Cross of Christ: a word which is love,

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## All Things Considered

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mercy, forgiveness.” – *Address, Good Friday, March 2013*

### 7. They Give Us the Certainty of God’s Love for Us

“What has the Cross given to those who have gazed upon it and to those who have touched it? What has the Cross left in each one of us? You see, it gives us a treasure that no one else can give: the certainty of the faithful love which God has for us.” – *Address, World Youth Day, Way of the Cross, July 2013*

### 8. They Guide Us from the Cross to the Resurrection

“O, Our Jesus, guide us from the Cross to the resurrection and teach us that evil shall not have the last word, but love, mercy and forgiveness. O Christ, help us to exclaim again: ‘Yesterday I was crucified with Christ; today I am glorified with Him. Yesterday I died with Him, today I live with Him. Yesterday I was buried with Him, today I am raised with Him’.” – *Address, Good Friday, April 2014*

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## Your Story of Faith

Now that we’re in the Lenten season, Detroit Catholic, the Archdiocesan online magazine, is asking parishioners to share interesting or intriguing stories of those entering or who have entered the Church. Perhaps you have just what someone else needs to hear.

Is your family entering the Church? Are you someone who is coming into full communion late in life? If you know of or are a candidate or catechumen whose story might be of particular interest to Detroit Catholic readers, please consider sharing it by emailing [DCsubmit@aod.org](mailto:DCsubmit@aod.org).

## Mass Times When Traveling

Your membership in the Catholic Church gives you privileges to worship with any Catholic Community world wide. While on your vacation or traveling, websites like [masstimes.org](http://masstimes.org) and [thecatholicdirectory.com](http://thecatholicdirectory.com) make it easy to find a mass.

## Religious Formation Station

Lent is a very special time of the Church year. In her wisdom she has built in a sort of “seasonal retreat” for us. She has set aside forty days out of a busy year to dynamically change us in the direction of our spiritual growth. The word “Lent” means “spring.” The awakening and rebirth of nature became a sign of the awakening to new life of Christians through baptism. In the Christian tradition, Lent is a time to focus on the more serious side of life. The forty days of Lent are a time of renewal, and an annual change to live the Gospel as fully as possible.

Lent and all the opportunities that the parish community provides are there for the taking: weekly Mass, Reconciliation, Friday evening Stations of the Cross and fish dinners / community gatherings, Triduum services. All of these serve only one purpose: to “invite” us to take stock of where we are and where we want to go in relationship to self, family and God. Our faith is a “growth process.”

During Lent we should concentrate on performing good deeds, fasting and praying. By getting rid of lesser things, we can make more room in our hearts for God’s love and the love of others.

We don’t often think about preparing for Lent, though. Yet, preparing for something is one way to ensure that we get the most out of it. Take time this week to prepare your child/ren to get the most out of their Lenten journeys. Ask your child/ren what they learned in class this week (and every week) throughout this holy season. Review/discuss the Lenten information provided in the parish bulletin, monthly religious education emails with attached Partners in Faith newsletter. Faithfully attend Mass each week as a family. Pray the Stations of the Cross or share a Friday fish dinner with your greater parish family. Each week throughout Lent, share moments of generosity, prayer, and fasting with your child. Together, we can help your child/ren have a meaningful Lent.

### More Lenten Ideas to Help Bolster Your Family’s Spiritual Journey:

- Begin each day with the prayer, “Lord, we offer you this day, and all that we think, and do, and say.”
- Take the kids grocery shopping for the poor and bring the food to our parish collection areas in the back vestibule of the church.
- Let children light a candle at home or church for people who are sick or suffering.
- Write a letter to someone you know who is in need of an extra prayer or smile.
- Turn off electronic devices and spend quality time together.
- Read the Lives of the Saints to your child/ren or pray the Rosary together.
- Encourage each family member to do something nice for someone every day.
- At dinnertime, let each family member mention one person or problem that they would like to pray for.
- Abstain from meat for an extra day each week and donate the savings to charity.
- Volunteer as a family to help your parish. Whether it’s welcoming people as they enter Church for liturgy, participating in a parish almsgiving collection, helping out at the fish dinners – it gives you a chance to serve together.

### PROGRAM REMINDERS:

- Almsgiving Quarter Collection Folders: On March 3<sup>rd</sup> a coin folder for Lenten almsgiving went home with each student. The donations will go to Bishop Gumbleton’s Kay Lasante missionary project in Haiti. An informational handout on Lenten practices and almsgiving also went home with the folders.
- Volunteer Information Session – March 24<sup>th</sup> 9:50 a.m. at Merit: Anyone who is curious about being more involved in our religious education program is invited to attend. If you think you might want to be a catechist or a classroom assistant but want to know more about the program first, this is the meeting for you.
- Super Saturday – Holy Week for Families – Save the Date – April 13<sup>th</sup> 2:00-3:30 p.m. in the ARK followed by hospitality & 4:00 p.m. mass.

Kelly Woolums

## Journey of Hope

In this season of Lent, one of the significant features about our Journey of hope is to appreciate and approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Sacrament of Reconciliation draws each of us closer to God and into unique experiences of forgiveness. It is undeniably true that it is God who initiates and fulfills this sacrament. The Spirit of God's grace behind the sacrament reconciles us to the unconditional love and mercy of God. Therefore, our earthly and heavenly nourishment is a forgiveness that overcomes our physical, emotional, psychological impediments and gives us divine healing. In the ministry of penance, confessors invite Jesus Christ to walk through the closed doors of our un-forgiveness in order to restore us, in our heart and soul.

On this journey, we see our resurrected Jesus entering through our closed doors to affirm a permanent peace. Jesus then breathes on his disciples saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained" (Jn10: 19-23). In this passage, God grants a divine power, especially on his ordained disciples to forgive sin. Hence, the penitent confesses sins to the minister to embrace God's forgiveness. The confessors invoke absolution upon the penitent to gain freedom from every yoke of sin and oppression.

Through this powerful spirit-filled prayer, God continues to invite and purify us from our individual depravity and summons us to plunge into his marvelous grace. As the book of Isaiah prescribed: "Come now, let us set things right, says the LORD, though your sins be like scarlet they may become white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they may become white as wool" (Is1:18). This is like taking a good medication that dispels all toxins from our body and reinstates a renewed healthy balance. The sacrament reinstates our true identities and affirms that we are lovable and forgivable. Penance enables us to be conscious of our words and actions so that we may embrace each other as children of God, all of the same family. Pope John Paul II proclaimed that the sacrament of Reconciliation is an invitation to rediscover the gifts of mercy and loving grace from our risen Christ. Thus, penance and reconciliation is an accepting of the good news of love as adopted children of God restored into a communal relationship.

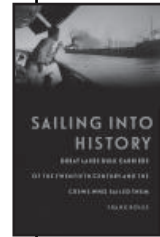
In this Lenten season of mercy, we join Pope Francis to welcome all into the Catholic Church the "Church of Mercy". Mercy reflects the channels through which God waters the earth, protects His creation and spreads justice and peace. Therefore, may this glorious sacrament renew and restore us as we receive Christ's Body and Blood in thanksgiving for His merciful forgiveness. As we embrace and plunge into the overflowing pool of forgiveness, may Christ's freedom and mercy revitalize our souls. Mercy is the open door, which brings reunification and the grace of hope – because hope does not disappoint (Romans 5:5). Consequently to plunge into the realm of this merciful hope is naturally beautiful. This is truly good news we hold onto. We embrace the beauty of this reservoir of forgiveness, which guides us to freedom. May we continue to proclaim to the world the awesomeness of God who freely gives us His marvelous redemption through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Dn. Anthony Kote-Witah, OFM Cap.

## Tap into Life Next Sunday

Join us every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month for the Solanus Casey Center's Young Adult (Age 18-35) Ministry event, Tap into Life, a Franciscan Approach to Theology on Tap. Fellowship begins at 6 p.m. and the evening's talk and discussions begin at 7 p.m. Please spread the word and bring a friend! To RSVP, email TapIntoLife@thecapuchins.org. The next Tap Into Life will be next Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. The Solanus Casey Center is located at 1780 Mt. Elliott in Detroit.

## Marcellina's Book Club



The Great Lakes create a vast transportation network that supports a massive shipping industry. In Sailing into History: Great Lakes Bulk Carriers of the Twentieth Century and the Crews Who Sailed Them, Frank Boles

relates seamanship, cargo, competition, cooperation, technology, engineering, business, unions, government decisions, and international agreements in a story of unrivaled interest.

We are in the process of connecting with the author to see when he can pay our book club a visit. That date will be announced here. In the meantime, pick up a copy of the book and get a headstart in reading this important work which was one of this year's twenty Notable Book Honorees by the State Library of Michigan.

## The Beehive

is the parish weekly bulletin of the  
St. Ambrose Catholic Community  
Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

**Pastor:** Rev. Timothy R. Pelc

**Assistant:** Dn. Anthony Kote-Witah, OFM, Cap

**Pastoral Minister:** Charles Dropiewski

**Religious Education:** Kelly Anne Woolums

**Minister of Music:** Dr. Norah Duncan IV

**Office Manager:** Peggy O'Connor

### Sacramental Celebrations

**Masses:** On the Lord's Day –

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:30 and 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 for the Coming Week

## Monday, March 11

8:30 a.m. - Morning prayer

## Tuesday, March 12

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Joanne and John Kissel

## Wednesday, March 13

8:30 a.m. - Morning prayer

## Thursday, March 14

7:00 p.m. - Mass - Ray & Patricia Pfau

## Friday, March 15

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Clara Marie Green

7:00 p.m. - Stations of the Cross

## Saturday, March 16

3:00 p.m. - Reconciliation

4:00 p.m. - For All People

## Sunday, March 17

### Second Sunday in Lent

8:30 a.m. - For All People

11:15 a.m. - For All People



# Scriptures for the Second Week of Lent

## Monday, March 11

- Lv 19: 1-2, 11-18
- Ps 19 8-10, 15
- Mt 25: 31-46

## Tuesday, March 12

- Is 53: 10-11
- Ps 34: 4-7, 16-19
- Mt 6: 7-15

## Wednesday, March 13

- Jon 3: 1-10
- Ps 51: 3-4, 12-13, 18-19
- Lk 11: 29-32

## Thursday, March 14

- Est C: 12, 14-16, 23-25
- Ps 138: 1-3, 7c-8
- Mt 7:7-12

## Friday, March 15

- Ez 18: 21-28
- Ps 130: 1-8
- Mt 5: 20-26

## Saturday, March 16

- Dt 26: 16-19
- Ps 119: 1-2, 4-5, 7-8
- Mt 5: 43-48

## Sunday, March 17

- Gn 15: 5-12, 17-18
- Phil 3: 17-4: 1 or 3: 20-4: 1
- Lk 9: 28b-36

# The Second Sunday in Lent

March 16<sup>th</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup>

4:00 p.m. - **Celebrant:** Fr. Bede **Lector:** Bern Degnan

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Della Cimini, Karen McShane, Elizabeth Puleo-Tague

**Altar Servers:** Julianna & Kieman Tague

8:30 a.m. - **Sunday - Celebrant:** Fr. Pelc **Lector:** Colleen Jogan

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Colleen Drummond, Christopher Harrison, Joan Jackson, Maggie Jackson, Bob Jogan, Steve Linne, Chris Walsh

**Altar Servers:** Delaney Jackson, Dailey Jogan

11:15 a.m. - **Celebrant:** Bp Gumbleton **Lector:** Michele Hodges

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Thomas Bennert, Pat & Michael Mocerì, Sue & Roger Playwin, Janis Ramsey, Cristina Swiatkowski

**Altar Servers:** Liam & Maria Liburdi

## Your Envelope Speaks . . . the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish requires a *minimum* of..... \$10,100.00

### On Sunday, March 3, 2019

in envelopes we received ..... \$9,595.00

in the loose collection ..... \$787.00

in other donations..... \$1,390.00

for a total of..... **\$11,772.00**

**Over budget for the week ..... \$1,672.00**

Number of envelopes mailed ..... 900

Number of envelopes used..... 142

*"I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O Lord, have given to me." (Deuteronomy 26:10)*

This line from the Old Testament offers two challenges. First, do you give to God from your "first fruits", the best that you have to offer, or do you give from what is leftover? Second, do you recognize that everything you have has been given to you by God? Ask God for a grateful and generous heart, every day, in all circumstances.

## Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Karen Culver, Ann Sullivan Kay, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Jeanne Noto, David Schumacker, Matthew Elias, George Bucec, Emilie Kasper, Anna Noto Billings, Darby O'Toole, Vilma Rivers, Vilma Marone, Eileen O'Brien, Martha Luna, Dina Engels, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, Betty Greenia, Alexandra Cullen, Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Alex Billiu, Gladys Bogos, Lou Rondini and Wayne Wallrich.

## Lenten Prayer at St. Ambrose

On the Thursdays of Lent, our morning Mass shifts to a 7 p.m. time slot in order to give more people an opportunity to attend the liturgy during the weekdays of Lent - leading up to Holy Thursday.

Preceding Thursday night Masses (at 6 p.m.), as well as preceding Saturday afternoon Masses (at 3 p.m.), confessions will be heard.

This year Lent once again includes Friday night Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m. and our popular Fish Dinners which run from 4 to 8 p.m. Try this at least once this Lent: come for an early dinner and stay for Stations of the Cross. Or, come to Stations of the Cross and then enjoy a later dinner.

Good food and grace abounds! Sample a serving of both.



## What Will It Take to Keep Jefferson Chalmers Affordable?

In its heyday, Jefferson Avenue was known as one of the busiest commercial corridors in Detroit. Small businesses once bloomed near the dense residential community of Jefferson Chalmers. But like many other Detroit neighborhoods, the population decline in Jefferson Chalmers left a great number of small to medium sized commercial and multi-family residential spaces abandoned. Fortunately, many of those houses and commercial properties had great bones and remain standing, awaiting redevelopment.

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, Jefferson East Inc. (JEI), Shelborne Development and residents were joined by Mayor Mike Duggan to celebrate the redevelopments of the Marlborough and IDAO apartment buildings. Other funding and support for the projects came from the city of Detroit, Enterprise Community Loan, Twain Capital, and the Kresge Fund. Construction, which began last year, is expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

But redevelopment in Detroit is often met with a healthy amount of skepticism. While affordable housing is high on the list of priorities in the city, a common follow-up question is, "Affordable for whom?"

In 2015, JEI entered into a partnership with Shelborne Development through their development arm, East Jefferson Development Corporation (EJ DevCo). The joint venture's first project was Chalmers Square, a redevelopment of three apartment buildings of nearly 50 one to three bedroom units. The developers found that demand was high for both affordable and market rate housing, sparking a realization that multi-family development is necessary in the community. To learn more about its commitment to building affordable housing, ModelD spoke with Joshua R. Elling, executive director of JEI.

Elling explained that Jefferson East has been around since 1994. It was originally founded to support the commercial district — attracting retail, helping people start businesses and facade programs. But, the Jefferson Chalmers business district has one of the highest number of early 20<sup>th</sup> century apartment buildings. Right at Chalmers Square there were four small apartment buildings in either mid-collapse or disrepair. Redevelopment would be at a tremendous cost, but the units still had to be affordable to the neighborhood.

The city's affordable housing ordinance requires that if you receive any public subsidies, 20 percent of the units must be at 80 percent area median income (AMI). The problem with AMI is it is not just determined by the city of Detroit. The area's AMI includes the metropolitan area: cities like Livonia, Warren, the Grosse Pointes, Dearborn — the core suburban area. The AMI for the metro area, of course, is a lot higher than it is for the actual city. So, many times, that isn't actually affordable. To truly do affordable housing in an area like Jefferson Chalmers you have to produce housing at 60 percent AMI or less. The real biggie is 30 percent AMI.

In addition, restoring these units comes at a huge cost. In the Marlborough Building, we have been able to keep 60 percent of those units at 60 percent AMI or below and 40 percent at market rate. That kind of approach fuels multi-family unit development deals. We want to make sure that the majority of the units are affordable and reflect the income levels in the surrounding neighborhoods.

There is a fear that if you bring on market rate units in a vacant building that somehow it is going to drive up costs in surrounding buildings. What that doesn't take into account is the law of supply and demand. As this neighborhood improves, crime goes down, retail amenities and transportation improve, our neighborhoods are going to become more desirable places to live. By providing market rate units to service that demand, we are also helping supply keep up and cost increases down.

As residual profits are received, that revenue is returned back to Jefferson East to support all of the other things that we are doing to improve the neighborhood. That's more money to fund foreclosure prevention work, home repair programs, safety and financial literacy programs. That is another way to reinvest funds back into the neighborhood to support existing and long-term residents.

As the work continues, the goal is to help residents feel less threatened by development and to understand the benefits and to understand that Jefferson East and East Jefferson Development Corporation are doing development differently, and doing it without displacement.

*Excerpted from the article "Amidst new development, what will it take to keep Jefferson Chalmers affordable?" by Biba Adams for modeldmedia.com.*

## 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.