

# St. Ambrose Parish

SEPTEMBER 15, 2019  
BEEHIVE



## Catechical Sunday

# The Parish: A place of Hope, Healing and Hospitality

In his seminal work, *A Secular Age* (Harvard University Press, 2007), Charles Taylor acknowledges that we have moved from a time when it was virtually impossible not to believe in God, to one in which faith, even for a believer, is considered one possibility among many others. Our world, Taylor argues, is being configured not by the absence of belief or religion (although religious practice has declined), but rather by the multiplicity of new options available by which people give shape to their spiritual aspirations. As Catholics, we have seen, in a relatively short period of time, the challenges presented with the rapid rise of those who profess no religious identity, those who are formal members of communities but do not practice their faith, and those who have some connection to their faith but one that is tenuous.

Hope, healing and hospitality are the hinge-points of a door to our ministries where people can experience the healing light and merciful love of Jesus.

## **N.O.N.E.**

A group about which much ink has been spilled has been labeled the “nones”. Technically, this term refers to those who indicate “none” when asked to identify their religious affiliation. According to Pew Research from 2015, this group presently accounts for 1 in 5 of the general population and are a growing demographic, particularly among youth and young adults. However, I wish to make an important distinction with regard to this group. We mistakenly assume that these individuals have made a fixed and final decision about faith, but nothing could be further from the truth.

“None” is not akin to “non belief,” if the Pew Forum Research of 2012 is any indication. For example, 94 percent of the unaffiliated believe in God, and 49 percent of those believe in a personal God. Not only that, but 30 percent are

formal members of religious communities! This demographic is not a homogenous group but have disparate beliefs and practices regarding religion and religious affiliation. This may mean that those who describe themselves as “nones” likely have some connection to a faith community, believe in God and may even attend Mass, albeit rarely. This is also true of many Catholics today. When someone says they are Catholic, it may mean that they attend Mass daily or once a month or attend only at Christmas or Easter. For others, it might mean they no longer go to Mass at all but still want to be married in the Church or have their child baptized.

This distinction is critical especially when it comes to our youth. According to a 2018 study conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown and Saint Mary’s Press, 74 percent of young people said they stopped identifying as Catholic between ages 10 and 20, with a median age of 13. While they may have stopped identifying with their Catholic faith, they may still be in attendance at religious education or be attending Catholic schools. As such they represent a ripe audience for us.

## **Building Bridges of Trust**

The postmodern journey of conversion usually begins when there is a bridge of trust with a fellow Christian, a positive connection to a community of faith or something identifiably Christian. Building bridges of trust with post-modern youth and young adults is becoming more difficult for all institutions including the Catholic Church. Trust is the foundation of all relationships. When we as Catholics, seek to enter into relationship with others, it will only progress and grow if we trust each other.

In this regard, Jesus has much to teach us. As disciples or students of the Master Jesus Christ we can look at how Jesus builds a bond of trust with the Samaritan Woman, clearly a marginalized person in society. His warmth and very

*Continued on page 2*

## Hope, Healing and Hospitality

*Continued from page 1*

presence, draws her to him as he offers her a compelling vision for her life and inspires hope. Not only does Jesus quench her thirst for water but he quenches her thirst for “living water” (John 4:10-11). She then runs to share with others the Good News that she is loved because she has encountered the source of this love and understands that others too can share in the love of Jesus Christ. Her compelling testimony is now offered to those who have not met Jesus and yet can still encounter Him in and through her story. With the story of the Samaritan woman in mind, I offer three bridges of trust for ministers to build upon: Hope, Healing and Hospitality.

### Saved in Hope:

In a world, rich in material wealth but often impoverished in spiritual health, youth and young adults are being ravaged and broken by the rampant pace of secularism. In my work with young adults, I see a yearning and a hunger, not just for the message of the Gospel, but for the one from whom all Good News flows, the person of Jesus Christ, who offers hope.

Despite all that the world faces, St. Pope John Paul II reminds us that *“humanity is able to hope. Indeed it must hope: the living and personal Gospel, Jesus Christ himself, is the “good news” and the bearer of joy that the Church announces each day, and to whom the Church bears testimony before all people”* (*Christifideles laici*, 7).

The Church grows by the energy of Christ’s love and not by the power of ideologies, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI In 2007 remarked that sharing how Jesus has worked in our lives is a powerful tool for evangelization. *“Leading with the ‘yes’ of who we are and offering a sign of hope is always more powerful than telling people what we say ‘no’ to.”*

### Healing The Wounds

Jesus, the Divine Physician is the ultimate healer and it is by his wounds that we are healed (1 Peter 2:24). In the Gospels, we read that Jesus constantly spent time healing the blind, the lame, the paralyzed, the hard hearted, the angry, and the despairing. He never turned away anyone that needed healing and neither should we. Our parishes should be spaces to experience healing love and mercy.

During a Mass in 2015, Pope Francis described the Church as a “field hospital” that requires, “healing the wounded hearts, opening doors, freeing [people], and saying that God is good, forgives all, is our Father, is tender, and is always waiting for us...” In fact, the first thing that Jesus did after the Resurrection was to reveal his wounds to the disciples.

Being a sanctuary of mercy and healing is a very real need today that parishes can provide. Parishes that walk with those through divorce, remarriage, grief, and all forms of suffering will find that this work of accompaniment bears lasting fruit. Simple means of being a fountain of healing include offering words of encouragement and prayer with those in need. As parish leaders we should not be afraid of entering “the tomb” of suffering of another and help them to reconcile this suffering to the Cross so that we can see the glory of the Resurrection.

### Hospitality as a Sanctuary

The desire to be loved and welcomed cuts to the deepest heart of each one of us. Hospitality flows from charity and is about welcoming Christ who is deepest within every person we encounter. Hospitality, unfortunately, has become synonymous with coffee and donuts or relegated to a select group of people or committee. Not only has this mindset absolved us all of the need to go out of our comfort zone to welcome others, but it reinforces the mindset that hospitality is something that a particular group of people do, rather than who we are as a people of Christ.

The parish is a *“sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink”* reminds Pope Francis (*Evangelii Gaudium* #28). If we teach our parishioners to be hospitable, we must help them to see Christ in everyone and to welcome all to God’s house, in His name. Our parishes ought to be places where we can drink in the person of Christ in the other so that all experience “living water”; a place where the least of all can drink through their year of grief, joy, losses, sorrows, and wounds and quench their thirst; a sanctuary that is capable of warming hearts and bodies in love.

### Ripe for the Harvest:

St. Pope John Paul II reminds us in the encyclical *Redemptoris Missio* that *“God is opening up before the Church the horizons of a humanity more fully prepared for the sowing of the Gospel.* While we can look to the lessons of the past, Pope Francis reminds us that we live at a time when we, as a community of faith must prioritize a more missionary option as we are witnessing not simply an *“era of change but a change of era”*. Adopting a mindset of abundance rather than scarcity and praying with expectant hope ought to be a part of our ministerial disposition.

Hope, healing and hospitality are the hinge-points of a door to our ministries where people can experience the healing light and merciful love of Jesus. Just as Jesus exhorts his disciples to see the spiritual harvest in front of them, he urges us as missionary disciples with these words *“Do you now say, ‘There are yet four months the harvest will be here’? I tell you, look up now and see the fields ripe for the harvest.”*

*Written for the United States Catholic Conference for Catechetical Sunday, 2019 by Julianne Stanz, the Director of Discipleship and Leadership Development for the Diocese of Green Bay.*

# All Things Considered

This weekend, Catholics across the United States celebrate **Catechetical Sunday**. The 2019 theme is “Stay With Us.” The original Biblical quote comes from the disciples on the road to Emmaus who ask Jesus to stay with them for dinner. (Luke 24:13-35) In the context of Catechetical Sunday however, “stay with us” has another meaning. It refers to those who have turned away from their faith. It’s asking *them* to remain with Jesus and the Church in which they were raised.

We live in an increasingly secularized society, which powerfully influences our young people, often compelling them to leave the Church altogether. The 2018 *Saint Mary’s Press* study, [The Dynamics of Disaffiliation in Young Catholics](#), includes extensive research on young Catholics who have left the Church. One of their most alarming findings was that youth stop identifying as Catholics at a median age of 13 for reasons ranging from disbelief to dissatisfaction with Church teaching.

Sociologist **Christian Smith**, renowned for his investigation of the phenomenon of disaffiliation, notes that many of the young people who have stopped identifying as Catholics tended to have “weak signs of attachment to the Church” in the first place. In other words, they were not formed very well in the faith.

At the same time, we have signs of hope. The Church must walk with young people and their families, listen to them with attention and love, and then be ready intelligently to give a reason for the hope that is within us.

May our lives be an imitation of Jesus’ encounter with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus and accompany those entrusted to us into full community and discipleship.

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While Ambrosians have done a stellar job in special fundraising projects, it has been decades since we focused on basic, ongoing parish support. Starting this week and through the end of the month, we will be hearing about an upcoming Increased Offertory Program at St. Ambrose. We’ll discuss *mission* as well as *method*. We have to look at both. This program will allow us to better move forward with our community’s goal of Unleashing the Gospel. Next weekend I will be asking each of you to make some sort of financial commitment to the ongoing ministries and operations of St. Ambrose.

Has it been a long time since you gave St. Ambrose a raise? Between now and then, I encourage all of you to spend time in prayer and discussion with your families, reflecting on all that we still hope to accomplish as Christ’s disciples.

In addition, we’re using this as an opportunity to move into 21<sup>st</sup> century giving habits with online giving through Christian Financial or electronic donations with Givelify.

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In 1990, the United States sent troops to Kuwait. The country entered a bad recession which had repercussions for years. Following the Berlin Wall falling, East and West Germany reunited. The first web page on the WWW made its appearance. Gas sold for \$1.29 a gallon, and the St. Ambrose Oysterfest was launched.

It’s difficult to imagine that a festival that celebrates a bi-valve would gain such popularity and become a signature event for our parish and community. But it has and it will again at our 29<sup>th</sup> annual OYSTER-FEST on the last Monday of September.

Entry tickets are on sale in the church after all masses; the cost is \$30 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and under. That gets you “all you can eat” oysters, shrimp, and access to a diverse set of offerings from more than three

dozen local restaurants. I hope you and your guests will participate at some level because the Oysterfest is one great party.

If you don’t want to take your chances on finding a table, we can arrange to have a premium one reserved and marked for you, or your business. That extra cost would be \$200 for a table of 8 persons.

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Won’t you or your business consider being an Oysterfest sponsor of one of the following?

- Event Sponsor - \$5,000
- Printing and Postage Sponsor - \$2,500
- Security Sponsor - \$1,500
- Beverage Sponsor - \$1,000
- Supplies Sponsor - \$500

If you can’t be a major sponsor, then consider being a personal sponsor – a “wino” or a “beer belly.” \$100 gets you a nice swag bag and express entry. More importantly, the button you will wear indicates that you have put “your money where your beverage preference is” as a support of our parish.

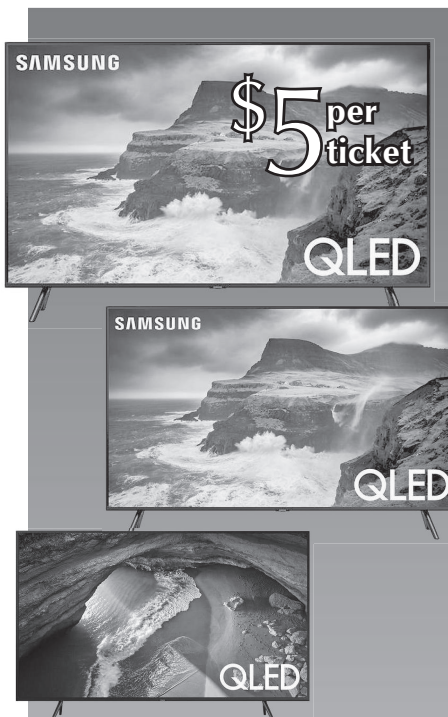
✘✘✘

The prizes for the Oysterfest Raffle this year are three ultra high definition QLED TVs. In “geek-speak” QLED stands for “organic light emitting diode.” QLED (according to Samsung) also stands for “quantum dot LED TV.” QLED is a fundamentally different technology from LCD, the major type of TV today. These TVs are known for their stunning clarity. And our first prize is a whopping big 65” unit.

All our prizes are delivered direct to your home – anywhere in the US. And if you win and decide you really can’t use a TV, then you can take the cash equivalent.

You can pick up an extra packet in church and help the Oysterfest fundraising effort by buying and/or selling a few \$5 tickets to family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. We usually make between \$10,000 and \$12,000 for parish programs through the raffle proceeds and we need you to help us make that goal this year.

TRP



**1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Samsung  
65" Class 4K  
UHD QLED LCD TV**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Samsung  
55" Class 4K  
UHD QLED LCD TV**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Samsung  
43" Class HDR 4K  
UHD QLED LCD TV**

Drawing at the  
Twenty-Ninth Annual

St. Ambrose  
OYSTERFEST

on Monday,  
September 30, 2019  
at 8:30 p.m.

Watch for tickets  
in the mail!

## Who's Child Is It?

During the rite of baptism, after the parents request the sacrament of baptism for their child, the priest or deacon states, "You are accepting the responsibility of training your child in the practice of the faith." Then, after the pouring of water, the instruction to the parents is repeated: "Make it your constant care to bring your child up in the practice of the faith."

To raise one's child in the Catholic faith may be a responsibility, duty or obligation, but it really is a privilege, joy and honor. Our faith is our single greatest treasure, and to pass on the gift of faith is the greatest gift parents could ever give their child.

This responsibility flows from the understanding of who is the ultimate owner of the child. Most parents realize that their newborn child is a miracle. God is the creator who gives life and forms the child in the mother's womb (Ps 139:13). God is the original parent and owner of the child, while the mother and father are biological stepparents and have the child on loan from God. In the Jewish tradition, children are consecrated to God (Lk 2:23), and in the Christian tradition, they are baptized.

The offering (Lk 2:24) recognizes God as the author and giver of life, and it serves as the parents' request to keep the child. God accepts the offering, but God has terms and conditions for the parents: "You are to raise your child on my behalf; to teach your child to know, love and serve me; and to prepare your child to accept my plan for his or her life."

God is love, and one of the parents' most important duties is to teach their child about the love of God. This is done best, not with a lesson in a book, but by example in the genuine love that the parents have for each other, and by experience of the love the parents have for their child.

The parents are the leaders of the house church, the basic unit and foundation of the Church, and their full, active and conscious practice of their faith is an ongoing lesson on how to be a dynamic Catholic. The child learns the faith through assimilation. Because the parents love God, the child learns to love God. Because the parents pray each day, the child learns to pray. Because the parents go to Mass on Sunday regularly, the child learns the importance of going to Mass, the value of communal liturgical prayer and how to behave in church. And because the parents practice the virtues in their daily living, the child learns how to live a Christian lifestyle.

Parents teach their children to pray. This should not begin in second grade as part of their preparation for the sacraments, but as the child learns how to talk. When a child learns to say mommy and daddy, colors and numbers, it is time to learn the Sign of the Cross and meal prayers. When a child is old enough to converse with mom and dad, the child is old enough to say morning and night prayers; and when a child is old enough to memorize a home address or telephone number, the child is old enough to memorize the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be.

Parents should have a children's Bible and other spiritual books and videos to teach their child about Jesus and the Gospel, as well as other great people in Scripture and Bible stories. Parents can enroll their children in religious education programs beginning with Sunday school and vacation bible school, as well as a Catholic elementary school or the parish faith formation program. The parents' pledge at baptism also includes ensuring that their child completes his or her sacraments through the reception of Reconciliation, first Eucharist and Confirmation.

*From the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis by Father Van Sloun. Read more of his writing at <http://www.catholicotdish.com>.*

# Religious Education Station

Today, along with parishes across the country and the Archdiocese of Detroit, we celebrate Catechetical Sunday. On this special day, our catechists are formally commissioned for ministry to our parish community to pass on the Catholic Faith to our families. We also celebrate our parents, grandparents, and guardians by recognizing their important role in teaching the faith. The parish community is encouraged to pray for all who dedicate themselves to the mission of helping those they teach to encounter Jesus and to grow in their love for Him. Thank you to all of our religious education families who will come together at one liturgy to share in the celebration of the Lord's Day; I can think of no better way to begin our faith formation journey for the year. May we continue to come together to give witness to our faith at Mass each week before or after our religious education classes.

I want to thank all of our catechists, classroom assistants, office assistants, and teen volunteers for answering the call to the ministry of catechesis. May God bless the work of all of our hands and hearts working together this year. We are truly grateful for the following volunteers:

- **Kindergarten:** Delaney Jackson – Catechist. Rachel McKenzie – Assistant
- **Grade 1:** Colleen Gatzke, Mary Grech – Catechists. Anna Carron, Grace Whitaker – Assistants.
- **Grade 2:** Melissa Keagle, Jessica Kodanko – Catechists. Shannon Kerr, Angelo Profeta, Maura Shine, Grace Vethacke – Assistants.
- **Third Grade:** Sophia Hugh, Eric Novack, Fiona O'Byrne – Catechists. Jonathon Biter, Raegan Rybick – Assistants.
- **Fourth Grade:** Lauri Read, Grant Ruttinger, Kurt Vatalaro – Catechists. Rachel Rybicki, Shea Vatalaro, Natalie White – Assistants.
- **Fifth Grade:** Laura Bush-Terry, Sebastien Foka – Catechists. Ben Corrion, Jack Corrion, Evan Kvintus, William Stricker – Assistants.
- **Sixth Grade:** Arinda Mele, Ronald Mele – Catechists.
- **Seventh Grade:** Daniel Clark, Victoria Hugh – Catechists. Liam Liburdi – Assistant.
- **Eighth Grade:** John Clark, Brendan O'Byrne – Catechists.
- **Ninth Grade:** Nicole Flynn, Elizabeth Puleo-Tague – Catechists.
- **Music Ministry:** George Bush, Lizzie High, Julianna Tague
- **Office Staff:** Alfonso Flores, Roberta Robson-McGlone, Vince Rouleau, Kelly Stroup-Garceau

## PROGRAM REMINDERS:

- Class #1: September 22<sup>nd</sup> 9:45-11:00 a.m. at Merit Academy. Welcome letters were mailed home to all registered families.
- Teen Assistant Meeting: September 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm in the ARK. Please bring all signed forms.
- Confirmation Retreat Meeting: September 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00 p.m. in the ARK. Please bring all signed forms.

## LATE REGISTRATION:

We understand that even with the best of intentions, families can miss the registration deadline for our program. But don't let that deter you from signing up your child. The formal religious education of the children God entrusted you with is an awesome responsibility. We are here to assist you in doing that. We're sorry that we cannot handle registrations over the phone because parents have to sign AoD forms. Students cannot attend class without complete registration forms in our file. Because of staffing, walk-in registrations can't be accommodated on the first day of class. Call or email us if you want to know when to come to register.

Kelly Woolums  
Director of Religious Education

<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>CSA</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Box Scores</b>

Number of Families .....	900
Returns in 2018 .....	262
Returns to date .....	215
Average Gift ('18).....	\$463
Quota for the Archdiocese .....	\$85,267
Property/Liability Insurance ...	\$52,000
Parish '19 Target.....	\$137,267
Received as of 9/1//2019.....	\$122,500

- The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Catholic Services Appeal is now wrapping up. Remember that now our quota for the Archdiocese is met, all gifts to the CSA are returned to the parish and are exempt from the regular 7% Archdiocesan tax.
- It's a great time to help your parish. All overages go to paying our property and liability insurances.

# The Beehive

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

**Pastor:** Rev. Timothy R. Pelc  
**Pastoral Minister:** Charles Dropriewski  
**Religious Education:** Kelly Anne Woolums  
**Minister of Music:** Louise Veltri  
On hiatus: 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, September 16**

*St. Cornelius & St. Cyprian, martyrs*

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

**Tuesday, September 17**

*St. Robert Bellarmine, bishop & doctor*

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Dave Vitale  
Neal & Phyllis Shine

**Wednesday, September 18**

8:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer

**Thursday, September 19**

*St. Januarius, bishop & martyr*

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Diden Martuscelli

**Friday, September 20**

*St. Andrew Taegon, & St. Paul Chong*

*Ha-sang, & companions, martyrs*

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Ronald Lucas

**Saturday, September 21**

*St. Matthew, apostle & evangelist*

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

**Sunday, September 22**

*Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

8:30 a.m. - Mass For All People

11:15 a.m. - Mass For All People



## Scriptures for the 24<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

**Monday, September 16**

- 1 Tm 2: 1-8
- Ps 28: 2, 7-9
- Lk 7: 1-10

**Tuesday, September 17**

- 1 Tm 3: 1-13
- Ps 101: 1b-3b, 5-6
- Lk 7: 11-17

**Wednesday, September 18**

- 1 Tm 3: 14-16
- Ps 111: 1-6
- Lk 7: 31-35

**Thursday, September 19**

- 1 Tm 4: 12-16
- Ps 111: 7-10
- Lk 7: 36-50

**Friday, September 20**

- 1 Tm 6: 2c-12
- Ps 49: 6-10, 17-20
- Lk 8: 1-3

**Saturday, September 21**

- Eph 4: 1-7, 11-13
- Ps 19: 2-5
- Mt 9: 9-13

**Sunday, September 22**

- Am 8: 4-7
- 1 Tm 2: 1-8
- Lk 16: 1-13 or 16: 10-13

## Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 21<sup>st</sup> and September 22<sup>nd</sup>

**4:00 p.m. - Celebrant:** Fr. Pelc **Lector:** Elizabeth Puleo-Tague  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Della Cimini, Karen McShane, Matthew Strong  
**Altar Servers:** Julianna & Lucan Tague

**8:30 a.m. - Sunday - Celebrant:** Fr. Bede **Lector:** Bob Gatzke  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Colleen Gatzke, Christopher Harrison, Joan Jackson, Maggie Jackson, Bob Jogan, Steve Linne, Joellyn Valgoi  
**Altar Servers:** Jack Hern, Alyssa Flores

**11:15 a.m. - Celebrant:** Bp. Gumbleton **Lector:** Michele Hodges  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Beverly Bennert, Anne Billiu, Joe Hugh, Pat & Michael Mocerri, Darryl Swiatkowski, Patty Yaden  
**Altar Server:** Malvina Lubanski, Liam O'Byrne

## Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

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

*On Sunday, September 8, 2019*

in envelopes we received ..... \$7,866.00

in the loose collection ..... \$567.00

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

for a total of..... **\$9,823.00**

Under budget for the week. .... **\$277.00**

Number of envelopes mailed ..... 900

Number of envelopes used..... 122

*"Everything I have is yours."  
(Luke 15:31)*

Our Heavenly Father gives us everything, including the chance to share in His eternal kingdom. Yet, like the Prodigal Son we are often lured away by the materialism of our society. Do we really want to turn our backs on all that God offers in exchange for a material wealth that has no lasting value?

## 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, Darby O'Toole, Anna Noto Billings, 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, Wayne Wallrich, Jerry Hansen, Lou Rondini, and Jackie Walkowski.

## Vincentian Reflection

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that the shepard rejoices when he finds one lost sheep. The story tells us that nothing and no one is insignificant to God who is compassionate and loves us all. Is there a neighbor or friend in yours who is in temporary need because of a loss of a job or an illness? Please leave a message for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at the rectory. We will make a visit and see if we can help.

## Sheep Among the Wolverines

From the heart of Ann Arbor, a young and growing community of religious Sisters is bringing a joyful witness to Catholic education and evangelization.

Join them this Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club for an evening with the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist. The Sisters will share musical selections from their Billboard-topping CDs and the counter-cultural story of their young and growing community. Hors d'oeuvres and curated wines and beers will be served. To register go to sistersofmary.org.

The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist is a Catholic religious institute based in Ann Arbor, Michigan. It was founded in 1997 by four members of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia. As of the end of 2017, it had 138 members and continues to grow each year.

## Electronic Donations

The landscape of giving is changing. We are rapidly moving away from a cash-carrying, check-writing society. Society is headed in a digital direction. The percentage of people who want to retain the giving status of an envelope is dwindling. Studies show that less than 15% of churchgoers nationwide wanted paper envelopes. 68% wanted digital options.

St. Ambrose Parish is equipped to make electronic transfers from your checking account or credit card on our website. Christian Financial Credit Union brings parishioners and friends the ability to make an electronic contribution to St. Ambrose on a regular or a one-time basis. This is especially helpful to us when you go away for a weekend, or go on vacation.

Your checking account or credit card may be used to make a single donation; or you may set up automatic weekly, monthly or quarterly contributions on a schedule.

Access the Christian Financial online giving service by logging onto our website at [stambrosechurch.net](http://stambrosechurch.net) and then click on the "Donate/Make Payment" link.



**Givelify** Another electronic service is Givelify. It can be used for one-time contributions or for regular parochial support. Simply download the app from your Apple Store or Google Play and locate St. Ambrose. Then tap an "amount". Tap a "campaign" and then tap "give now."

With both Christian Financial and Givelify, you can:

- Set up your own contribution, including recurring ones.
- Change your contribution at any time.
- No need to carry cash or write a check.
- Eliminates the need to make up for missed contributions.
- It keeps your giving consistent and eases the cash-flow problems of the parish.
- You can use your preferred credit or debit card.

There is an increased call on the part of parishioners to have this option for giving without having to remember to bring an envelope to church. But if you still like having a paper envelope to have something to drop into the basket during offertory time, those can still be mailed to you.

If you have difficulties in setting up an electronic giving account, give us a call at (313) 822-2814 or drop us a message at [stambrose@comcast.net](mailto:stambrose@comcast.net). We'd be happy to help.



A fun way of displaying your support for St. Ambrose Oysterfest – and your appreciation of the grain or the grape – is to become a Beer Belly or a Wino Sponsor. This personal sponsorship gives you one ticket to the Oysterfest redeemable in the express entrance lane – a T shirt – a commemorative beer glass or wine goblet – plus a token for your first fill.

All of this comes packaged in the appropriate "brown paper bag" with a Beer Belly or Wino Badge that you can proudly wear during the event.

Beer Belly and Wino personal sponsorships are available at \$100 and make a nice gift for someone you are bringing to the event, or for yourself! Place your order by logging onto [stambrosechurch.net](http://stambrosechurch.net); then go to the Donate/Make Payment tab. You can also call the rectory at 313-822-2814, or fill out the form that you'll find at the back of church. State your preference for a beer glass or wine goblet as well as the size of T-shirt (S - 2XL).

Purchase your Beer Belly or Wino sponsorship online: [stambrosechurch.net](http://stambrosechurch.net) or at our parish office.

## St. Ambrose Liturgical Choir

A new season has begun! Rehearsals are held on Thursdays evenings at 7:30. New members are always welcome.

Our choir sings at the weekly 11:15 liturgy and major feast days of the Church.

For more information, contact Louise Veltri through the parish office at [stambrose@comcast.net](mailto:stambrose@comcast.net) or stop up in the loft before or after Sunday's masses.

