

Dear Parishioners,

We live in extraordinary times as we continue to confront the continued challenges of the pandemic globally, at the Diocese and even our parish. We are still making many sacrifices, and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for your prayers and your continued support of our parish family.

Please remember that there is a way to find peace, joy and calm! St. Ambrose has Mass and Adoration every Friday at 9:15Am. Weekend Masses at 5:00pm Saturday, 9:00am and 11:00am on Sundays. Bring your family on Sunday morning! The children have CCD from 10:00am to 10:55am and you can worship as a family at either one of the Sunday Masses. It is a gift of grace to your family to be together at the Lord's table. And bonus! The kids get an hour learning and growing in their class.

The Diocese of Kalamazoo has made several sacrifices for us. For example, they have slashed their operating budget for this year in half. In a quote from Bishop Bradley, he states, "This is a shared sacrifice we feel necessary to assist in securing financial stability for our parishes. We want every parish in our Diocese to remain vital centers of worship, faith formation and service to their local communities" Even though their budget is drastically reduced, the need for our Bishop's annual appeal is necessary.

As you are already aware, Bishop Bradley has generally authorized a program that will assist us in meeting our parish expenses in a much greater way. After parishes reach 50% of their goal, all gifts to the appeal beyond that will be returned directly to the parish. Our parish goal for this year is \$65,018. That means that once \$32,509 is received at the Diocese, all donations in excess of that amount will come back to our parish and be available for daily operations. As of Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, we have pledged 51% of our parish goal with 25% of our parish families responding. This is very encouraging and I would like to encourage every member not to be left out. Let's make St. Ambrose "My Church My pride." I believe we can and we will.

The times are difficult, but we ask you to do whatever you can as we seek to fulfil the Gospel's mission. With the number of parishioners still not attending Mass, I encourage use of the online giving feature that is made available through the Diocesan giving website (<https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/867>), or mail your gift to St. Ambrose Rectory.

St. Ambrose is also offering classes for RCIA candidates. This is a thoughtful, grace-filled journey to become Catholic or, if already baptized, prepare for Confirmation. If you know anyone who has expressed interest in becoming a Catholic, please encourage that person to contact the office to get more information and begin their journey of faith.

As we endeavor to Love God and neighbor, we continue our outreach ministry to our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are providing several local families with groceries each month through our Food Lift Program. We also support the immigrant population through donations of toilet paper and laundry detergent which are delivered to the Lutheran Church and then passed on. These outreaches are made possible through our wonderful volunteers and the parishioners who

donate food and household supplies. We are available to make home visits for those unable to leave their home.

If you would like a Sacramental visit, Holy Communion or spiritual direction from Father Albert, please call the rectory who will be there with mask and bells on! You can also Email Fr. Albert: [fatheralbertstambrose@gmail.com](mailto:fatheralbertstambrose@gmail.com). We are still unable to visit Assisted Living facilities and Nursing Homes but we are looking forward to the time when we can bring visits and Eucharist to everyone who wants it.

The month of November is approaching. I wish to remind you that we will have Mass to remember and pray for all our beloved faithful departed on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 at 7:00pm. There will be a box in front of the altar to drop a list of your faithful departed. We will be praying for them the whole month.

As your priests serving you, Monsignor Mike and I Love you, cherish you and are very proud of all of you. Together let's make St. Ambrose the Best parish.

Sincerely yours in Christ

Rev. Albert Kemboi

Parochial Vicar

St. Ambrose Parish, Parchment MI