

St. Ambrose Parish Newsletter August 2020



RETURNING TO MASS

We welcome all who choose to participate in person at our Saturday 5PM and Sunday 9AM and 11AM Masses. The second Sunday Mass was added for your convenience and to allow more participation while assuring social distancing. We no longer request RSVPs because we have ample seating space with social distancing at each of the weekend Masses. Fr. Albert has also initiated a Friday 9:15AM Mass in the church. All are welcome. Masks are required as in any public location.

Livestreaming 9AM Sunday Mass

The Sunday morning 9AM Mass is now livestreamed on the parish's Facebook page. Access this easily from the parish website www.stambroseparchment.com home page by clicking on the Facebook 'f' or on the St Ambrose Facebook Page box. The parish recently installed a better camera and control system. Sound is captured through the church public address system. We will continue working to improve both picture and sound.

LETTER FROM FATHER ALBERT

Dear Parishioners,

Greetings and peace be with you all.

I wish to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to all the parishioners for the warm welcome you accorded Fr. Mike in August and me in March when we each joined the St. Ambrose Parish family. Thanks too for the continued support as we journey together towards accomplishing the mission of our Parish which states as follows:

"Called by the Holy Spirit to develop a family of faith in Christ, the people of St. Ambrose Parish embrace Christ's call to know, love, and serve God within our hearts, in our homes, and in our world community."

Our parish motto speaks well to this mission: "Love grows where people serve." It is in the spirit of service that we nurture Love. I have noticed and do appreciate the efforts by all the members in participating in parish activities. May I continue to encourage all parishioners to continue sharing their talents and gifts generously through the various Parish ministries.

As you are aware, this year we celebrate the Diocesan year of the Eucharist. We are reminded of the importance and the centrality of the Eucharist to our faith. On that note, I wish to exhort our parishioners to take advantage of the opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation every Saturday 4:00PM - 4:45PM and anytime by appointment.

Please feel free to engage any of our clergy and one another as we endeavor to better our best on moving forward as St. Ambrose parish family.

May the love, peace and Grace of God be with you!

Fr. Albert



GROWING IN FAITH

Today's Missal

Whether you participate at Mass in person or by livestream at home, a copy of the pew missal would be helpful. For safety reasons Diocesan guidelines directed that missals and song books be removed from pews. Feel free to pick up your personal missal copy in the church vestibule and take it with you for use at home or when you attend Mass in person. For safety reasons, do not return your copy at this time.

Sunday Experience

The Diocesan Parish Life and Lay Leadership Secretariat has created a page of resources for your family to continue your prayer life at home. You may find these resources at diokzoo.org/

SOS – Sharing Our Spirituality

All are welcome to join us on ZOOM on Sundays at 1:00p.m. Contact Paul Rahn (Pdrahn@charter.net) for Zoom meeting and password information.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the name for the process whereby adults enter the Catholic Church. Through the RCIA process, the people and pastor of St. Ambrose “hand on the teachings, practices, values and traditions of our Catholic faith.” For those interested in discovering what the Catholic faith is like and possibly becoming Catholic, or if already Catholic and would like to be confirmed, the RCIA process is the place to begin. If you or someone you know is interested, please call Eileen Rutten, RCIA Coordinator, (323-2372) or the parish office (385-4152) and leave your name, phone number and message.

Religious Education

The Diocese recently issued guidelines for religious education based on directives for reopening schools. All parishes including St. Ambrose must submit a Covid-19 Preparedness and Response plan for parish religious education. Classroom configurations limit our ability to maintain social distancing for students and teachers. Religious education will begin as virtual with teachers providing printed and online resource materials for family-based learning. Parent support meetings will be conducted monthly on site. Confirmation preparation will resume on August 30. Confirmation is scheduled for November 22 at the 9AM Mass.

Virtus Compliance

If you are required to do the on-line readings for Virtus please be sure that you are up to date. You can check your Virtus status on the readings by logging in, and on the right side of the screen is a “Training Bulletin Report” which will indicate if you have any bulletins to complete.

If you have not taken the Live Introduction Class, please check Virtus and on the left side of the screen there is “Live Training”, click that and then click pre-register for a class in your area. Please do this so that St. Ambrose, and you, can remain compliant with the rules for the safety of all. Thank you.

Liturgical Teams

As schedules and guidelines are changing, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, ushers and greeters, and servers will be contacted personally as needed over the next few months. Thank you for your cooperation.

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Albert Kemboi, Parochial Vicar
Hal Bohan and Al Radford, Deacons
Marilyn Thornburg, Administrative Assistant
Kathy Hageman and Christina Suarez-Ross, Secretaries
Sue Chicvara, Music Director
Eileen Rutten, RCIA Director
Amy Miles, Religious Education Director

Contact Us Phone: Rectory and Parish Office 269-385-4152

Prayer Line: 269-343-2306 (leave message)

Email: ambroseparchment@sbcglobal.net

HOW TO CONTACT US

Rectory Number: 269-385-4152 or 269-343-0099

Prayer Line: 269-343-2306 (Leave a message)

Office Hours: M-F 9AM-3PM

When no one is in the rectory offices, messages are picked up during the week. If you need more immediate assistance, you may leave a message with Marilyn Thornburg at 269-343-2306.

If you should call the rectory and the phone rings but the answering machine does not pick up - it means that the line is being used. Please call back later.

E-mail: ambroseparchment@sbcglobal.net

Let us know if you want to get e-mails by sending us an email.

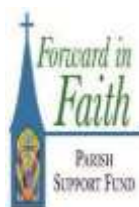
PARISH WEBSITE

The parish website, www.stambroseparchment.com, has been moved to a new service provider recommended by the Diocese. This change provides more capability and improves our ability to update the site and keep it current. In addition to the Facebook link, the new site provides links for the following: the weekly parish bulletin; direct payments to St. Ambrose from your bank or credit union; the daily Mass reading; prayer line requests; links to the diocesan website, www.diokzoo.org.

NEW COLLABORATIVE

Bishop Paul Bradley recently announced that St. Ambrose Parish has been reassigned to a collaborative with St. Augustine Cathedral instead of St. Mary Parish. Fr. Robert Creagan has been appointed the new canonical pastor. Fr. Albert Kemboi, is the full-time parochial vicar and contact person for St. Ambrose Parish.

FORWARD IN FAITH: PARISH SUPPORT FUND



The Diocese of Kalamazoo established this special fund to generate immediate funding to provide financial relief for parishes during the Coronavirus pandemic crisis. All donations go straight to your parish. Learn more at diokzoo.org/parish-fund.

FOOD LIFT NEEDS

Paper Towels	Jelly	Boxed Potatoes
Canned Meals	Noodles	Laundry Soap
Helper Meals	Frosting	Spaghetti Sauce
Kleenex	Peanut Butter	Toilet Paper
Canned Fruit	Crackers	Canned Chicken
Tuna	Cereals	Mac & Cheese
Pasta	Cake Mixes	Soup
Paper Bags Handles		

MAINTENANCE POSITION OPENING

St. Ambrose is looking for an individual to take care of the maintenance and custodial areas of the parish grounds and our three buildings. A criminal background check and attendance at a live Virtus Training Session is required. This is a paid position. Please send a resume to the Parish Rectory at 1628 East G Ave; Parchment MI 49004.

RETIRED PRIEST IN RESIDENCE



St. Ambrose Parish is delighted to welcome Monsignor Michael Hazard, who joins Fr. Albert in our parish community. Msgr. Mike recently moved to our parish rectory. He continues his assignment as chaplain to the Kalamazoo hospitals, and will assist Fr. Albert at St. Ambrose as time permits.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Because our churches were shut down in May when the Bishop's Annual Appeal normally occurs, Bishop Bradley has moved the Bishop's Annual Appeal to September. Parish targets for 2020 will be the same as 2019, but the Diocese will keep only the first 50% of the parish's target. Please be generous as you have in the past. Any dollars pledged and collected beyond the first 50% of target will be returned to the parish to offset our reduced parish collections since the lockdown started.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT SUMMARY 2019-2020

To keep you informed, key fiscal year 2019-2020 financials are below. Although revenues were down, reduced expenses offset the decline. We are most grateful to the many parishioners who continue to regularly send contributions in spite of the pandemic. We will do everything we can to ensure the parish's financial health and well-being until normalcy returns.

INCOME	BUDGET	ACTUAL		
Sunday & Holy Day Collections	\$353,600.00	\$333,524.53	FUNDS BALANCE 6-30-2020	\$619,897.24
Stipends and Stole Fees	1,500.00	985.00	ACCOUNT	AMOUNT
Donations and Bequests	1,500.00	8,230.00	Advia CU Checking	\$46,969.82
Interest and Dividends	0.00	43.89	Advia CU Money Market	27,848.41
Sale of Parish Assets	0.00	6,000.00	Advia CU Savings	2,757.82
Transfer from Saving	6,000.00	0.00	Diocesan Parish Savings	458,478.27
Fuel & Air Conditioning	2,000.00	3,194.00	Diocesan Discretionary Acct	76,070.59
Other Income Meijer/eScrip	0.00	97.21	Diocesan Noah's Appeal	723.60
Religious Education	600.00	1,170.00	Advia CU Food Lift Savings	15.00
KDSA Parishioner Payment	0.00	5,027.00	Advia CU Food Lift Checking	7,033.73
Missions	0.00	2,240.85		\$619,897.24
Heating Assistance	0.00	1,243.00		
Other: *Pass Thru Collections	0.00	63,624.59		
Total Income	\$365,200.00	\$425,380.07	*PASS THRU COLLECTIONS	AMOUNT
EXPENSES			Operation Rice Bowl	\$175.00
Total Parish Salaries	\$110,873.00	\$103,880.68	Religious Retirement	3,399.00
Total Parish Expenses	83,650.00	81,728.33	Priest Retirement	2,485.00
Total Plant Operations	106,700.00	83,821.92	Three Churches	1,328.00
Total Benefits & Insurance	35,475.00	35,121.09	Sister Parish	15,332.34
Total Religious Education	20,062.00	13,581.76	Sister Parish Tuition	6,596.40
Total Pass Through Expenses	0.00	68,392.44	Peter's Pence	2,049.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$356,760.00	\$386,526.22	Catholic Relief	2,121.00
Total Capital Outlay	\$8,000.00	\$6,991.33	Catholic Campaign	1,423.61
Total Expenses	\$364,760.00	\$393,517.55	Good Friday	674.00
			Shepherd's Center	1,461.00
			Foods Resource	200.00
			Other	26,380.24
NET INCOME	\$440.00	\$31,862.52	TOTAL PASS THRU	\$63,624.59