

## Saint Ambrose Parish Mission

is to live and fulfill the Gospel of Jesus Christ through our acts of love, kindness and hospitality.

MASSES:  
Sunday, 10:00 am  
Thursday, 6:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:  
Thursday, 4:30 - 5:30 pm



Staffed by the  
Capuchin friars of the  
Province of Saint Augustine  
[www.capuchin.com](http://www.capuchin.com)


# Saint Ambrose Catholic Church

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 Saint Ambrose Baltimore



Fr. W. David Nestler, OFM Cap, pastor  
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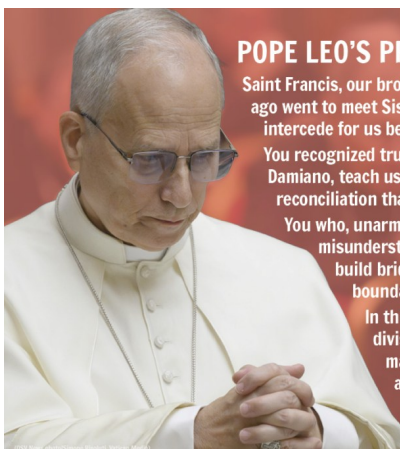
Mr. Deitrick Goodwin, director of music  
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## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

15 March 2026

### CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR PEACE

2026 marks the 800<sup>th</sup> year since the passing of Saint Francis from this world. To open the year-long celebration of this significant anniversary, Pope Leo XIV shared this prayer with leaders of the Franciscan Orders in January. It is timely:



**POPE LEO'S PRAYER TO ST. FRANCIS**


Saint Francis, our brother, you who eight hundred years ago went to meet Sister Death as a man at peace, intercede for us before the Lord.

You recognized true peace in the Crucifix of San Damiano, teach us to seek in Him the source of all reconciliation that breaks down every wall.

You who, unarmed, crossed the lines of war and misunderstanding, give us the courage to build bridges where the world raises up boundaries.

In this time afflicted by conflict and division, intercede for us so that we may become peacemakers: unarmed and disarming witnesses of the peace that comes from Christ.

Amen.



### A STATEMENT

FROM THE

CARDINAL ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO:

### A CALL TO CONSCIENCE

*"Our government is treating the suffering of the Iranian people as a backdrop for our own entertainment, as if it's just another piece of content to be swiped through while we're waiting in line at the grocery store. But, in the end, we lose our humanity when we are thrilled by the destructive power of our military. We become addicted to the "spectacle" of explosions. And the price of this habit is almost unnoticeable, as we become desensitized to the true costs of war. But the longer we remain blind to the terrible consequences of war, the more we are risking the most precious gift God gave us: our humanity."*

To see Archbishop Blase Cupich's full statement, use this QR code:



**WHAT IF I CAN'T KNEEL?**

Ordinarily, kneeling is the preferred posture during the Eucharistic prayer at Mass in the United States. But kneeling is not easy or possible for many people. If you cannot kneel, please let me recommend that you remain standing through the prayer.

Standing is a way of showing respect. It certainly is more reverent than sitting down.

What's more, the Eucharistic prayer is the climax of every Mass; it is the moment of deepest communion leading to the sharing of the Body and Blood of Christ which is the sign and the cause of our unity in Jesus. Standing opens us to an awareness of being a part of community while kneeling fosters a more private and solitary sense.

In this regard, I have been considering asking our entire congregation to stand for the entire Eucharistic prayer all through the Easter season. Let's make it an experiment:

- ◆ does it foster our sense of being united in community?
- ◆ does it enhance our ability to participate and sing fully the acclamations?
- ◆ does it contribute to our awareness of the unity of the entire Eucharistic prayer from the Introductory dialogue all the way to the Great Amen?

Starting with Holy Thursday's Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, let's give this a try. When we come to Pentecost, let me know how you experienced it.

*J. David*

**SILENCE IN THE LITURGY**

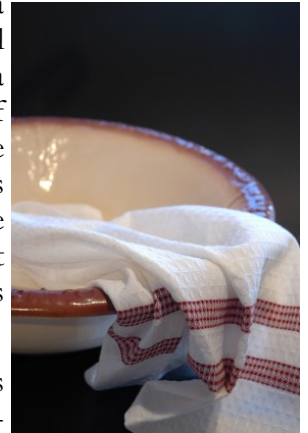
*"Music arises out of silence and returns to silence. God is revealed both in the beauty of song and in the power of silence. Silence in the liturgy allows the community to reflect on what it has heard and experienced, and to open its heart to the mystery celebrated. The importance of silence in the liturgy cannot be overemphasized."*

*Sing to the Lord: Music in Catholic Worship*  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2007

The group that has gathered to explore the spirituality of the liturgy on recent Saturdays spent some time discussing the role of silence in our Sunday Mass. If you notice some silent pauses in our liturgies, between the readings, after the homily, after Communion, it's deliberate. Please use it as described in the paragraph above.

**WASHING OF FEET ON HOLY THURSDAY  
EVENING MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

The washing of feet is a unique liturgical ritual in all of Catholic worship. It is a deliberate re-presentation of Jesus' example of humble service that he begged his disciples to imitate. We are planning a slightly different approach to that ritual this year.



After Father David washes the feet of several individuals, there will be three or four stations around the altar: a chair, a towel and a basin, a pitcher of water. People of the parish, on their own initiative and inspiration are invited to come to a chair and wash someone's feet. Perhaps a husband and wife will take turns washing each other. Parents may want to wash their children's feet. Maybe you'll approach someone in our congregation whom you want to honor for their generous service to our parish and ask that person if you can wash his or her feet.

The ritual unfolds naturally and is movingly prayerful. We'll be at Holy Thursday in a little more than two weeks. Will you be humble enough to allow someone to wash your feet? Is there someone in our community to whom you want to give this generous act of gratitude and simple love?

**TODAY****BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART**

If you've signed up, the bus leaves from the front of the church at 12:15 today for the museum. Because of this unique opportunity, both

the Liturgy Committee *and*  
the Women's Ministry

are not meeting today.

**MORE WOMEN'S MINISTRY ITEMS**

The group is organizing an Easter Egg Hunt again this year. Those who volunteered to help are asked to see Lisa Reveley.

T-shirts orders are in. Your prompt payment is appreciated. You can always order a shirt: see Dani Owens, Lisa Reveley or the parish website.

*Mr. Alphonse Butler, currently in hospice care at the Loch Raven VA Medical Center, sent the following message this week. Only rarely do we use the church bulletin for personal announcements. In this instance we hope you understand the exception to the rule.*

To my St. Ambrose Family,

You are truly my family by choice, bound together through love and blood of Jesus. From the moment I joined St. Ambrose you welcomed me with open arms. I am so thankful for the care, prayers and kindness you have shown me especially during this season in my life. I carry each of you in my heart and pray daily for those among us who are ill. Please continue to pray for me as I faithfully pray for you. With love,



In Christ,  
Al Butler

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES**

**SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND**



With changing priorities for U.S. government humanitarian assistance, our most vulnerable sisters and brothers are being affected around the world. Due to funding challenges, people need us more than ever. CRS is experiencing immediate and critical gaps in their ability to bring lifesaving programs across all areas of their work in the face of ongoing foreign aid crises.

For more than 80 years, Catholic Relief Services has responded immediately when emergencies occur — sometimes before they are reported by the media — thanks to you.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

- 03/15: Barbara Brown on the 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death and her 87<sup>th</sup> birthday, requested by Karen and John Berkley;
- 03/19: the people of Saint Ambrose Church;
- 03/22: Vernon T. Thornton on the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his passing, requested by his father Vernon and his sister, April;
- 03/26: the people of Saint Ambrose Church;
- 03/29: Carmen Tuitt on the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her passing, requested by her friend, Reva Stephens;
- 04/02: the people of Saint Ambrose Church.

*Eternal rest grant unto the faithful departed, O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.*

**SACRED JAZZ**

Now that the Reflection Day of Liturgical Ministers sponsored by the archdiocese has been cancelled, you may want to consider spending your time that day supporting the Oblate Sisters:



**TITHES AND COLLECTIONS**

08 March 2026 — online contributions	\$1,653.10
08 March 2026 — envelope contributions	\$3,273.00
<b>Sunday collection total</b>	<b>\$4,926.10</b>
<i>Thank you so much for your continuous support!</i>	



Use this QR code to make a donation or to sign up for online giving.

**PRAY FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS**

*If you or members of your family are admitted to the hospital and would like to be visited and remembered in prayer, please notify the parish office. If you are unable to attend Mass and want to receive a visit from the pastor, a deacon, or a eucharistic minister, please contact the parish office.*

*Let us always pray for our sick and shut-in parishioners. In particular, please remember in prayer:*

- |                         |                  |                          |                             |                            |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mary Adderly            | Debbie Chase     | JoAnn Glenn              | Kimberly Merrill            | Gloria Tate                |
| E-Otree Allen           | Louis Cooper     | Karen Gross              | Brenda Richardson           | Ernest Thames              |
| Phillip Ashton          | Linda Davis      | Gloria B. Harris         | Charles Richardson Williams | Jean Thomas                |
| Kimberley Barnes-Ohanwe | Kenneth Davis    | Angela Johnson           | Corey Richardson            | Kenneth Townsend, Sr.      |
| Jean Bennett            | Dante Davis      | Cornell (Nelson) Johnson | Carl & Bernice Shrieves     | Tammy Vaughn               |
| Parrish Boyd            | Dale Dyson       | Josie Johnson            | Danielle Singley            | Rosalie Watkins            |
| Karen Brown-Berkley     | Earlene Forrest  | Joseph Jones             | Bryan Smith                 | Sr. Ann Marie Whelan, SSND |
| Michael Bruce           | William Ford III | Sheila Leary-Smith       | Daniel Smith Sr.            | William Young, Sr.         |
| Renee Bruce             | Eric Frazier     | Ernest Livers            | Archie Stith                | Alice Zaborowski           |
| Al Butler               | Sarah Gamble     | Charles Manns, III       | Rosalita Stone              |                            |

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

15 March 2026

### FIRST READING

*1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6 - 7, 10 - 13a*

The LORD said to Samuel:

“Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way. I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, for I have chosen my king from among his sons.”

As Jesse and his sons came to the sacrifice, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is here before him.” But the LORD said to Samuel: “Do not judge from his appearance or from his lofty stature, because I have rejected him. Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the LORD looks into the heart.” In the same way Jesse presented seven sons before Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any one of these.” Then Samuel asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” Jesse replied, “There is still the youngest, who is tending the sheep.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Send for him; we will not begin the sacrificial banquet until he arrives here.” Jesse sent and had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth handsome to behold and making a splendid appearance. The LORD said, “There — anoint him, for this is the one!” Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed David in the presence of his brothers; and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalm 23: 1, 3 - 6*

**The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul.

He guides me in right paths for his name’s sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage.

You spread the table before me in the sight of my

foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come.

### SECOND READING

*Ephesians 5: 8 - 14*

Brothers and sisters:

You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them, for it is shameful even to mention the things done by them in secret; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says: “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.”

### GOSPEL

*John 9: 1- 41*

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. We have to do the works of the one who sent me while it is day. Night is coming when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, “Go wash in the Pool of Siloam” — which means Sent —. So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, “Isn’t this the one who used to sit and beg?”

Some said, “It is,” but others said, “No, he just looks like him.” He said, “I am.” So they said to

him, "How were your eyes opened?" He replied, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went there and washed and was able to see." And they said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I don't know."

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees. Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath. So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see. He said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see." So some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, because he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a sinful man do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?" His parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Christ, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; question him."

So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see." So they said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" They ridiculed him and said, "You are that man's disciple; we are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but we do not know where this one is from." The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man

were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind."

Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not also blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains.

*Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States, second typical edition, Copyright © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine; Psalm refrain © 1968, 1981, 1997, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.*



Josephite Father William Norvel, a forceful voice for Black Catholic identity who spent more than six decades challenging the institutional church to live up to its claim of being universal, died March 8. He was 90.

A pioneer in bringing Gospel music into Catholic liturgy following the Second Vatican Council, Father Norvel helped shape the spiritual life of Black Catholic communities nationwide. He contributed to the groundbreaking Black Catholic hymnal "Lead Me, Guide Me" and founded the first Gospel choirs at Catholic churches in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles.

His fellow Josephites later elected him the 13<sup>th</sup> superior general of his Baltimore-based religious community, the St. Joseph's Society of the Sacred Heart, making him the first Black man to lead the Josephite community and the first Black to head a Catholic religious community of priests and brothers in the United States.

HOLY WEEK  
*Saint Ambrose Church*



Passion Sunday  
*29 March 2026*  
10:00 am

*Tenebrae*  
Service of Light  
*31 March 2026*  
8:00 pm



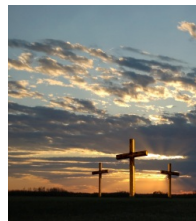
Holy Thursday  
Evening Mass  
of the Lord's Supper  
*02 April 2026*  
6:00 pm

Good Friday  
of the Lord's Passion  
*03 April 2026*  
3:00 pm



The Easter Vigil  
in the Holy Night  
*04 April 2026*  
8:00 pm

Easter Sunday  
of the Lord's  
Resurrection  
*05 April 2026*  
10:00 am



**PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO THE  
CONVERSATIONS:**

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

As part of its ongoing reflection on the life of our parish, the Parish Mission Council has been reflecting on our parish mission. A mission statement is not meant to say everything, but it should say what matters most.

Your voice will help shape a mission statement that truly reflects who we are and who God is calling us to become.

Click here:

<https://www.osvhub.com/saintambrose/forms/parish-mission-statement>



THE FUTURE  
OF THE  
SAINT AMBROSE SCHOOL BUILDING

Whether you are deeply ensconced in the Park Heights neighborhood and have been a member of Saint Ambrose Church for decades, or you have become a member more recently, the Advisory Council believes you have some wisdom and experience that can help inform the parish's decisions about the future of the school building.

Click here:

<https://www.osvhub.com/saintambrose/forms/saint-ambrose-school-building-advisory-council>

