The image shows the interior of a church, specifically the altar area. The focal point is a large, ornate white altar with a central niche containing a statue. The altar is flanked by two tall, narrow stained-glass windows with colorful geometric patterns. Above the altar, a large, arched window features intricate gold-colored floral and vine murals. The ceiling is high and arched, with a central light fixture. The floor is polished and reflects the light. The overall atmosphere is bright and formal.

*2021 Guide Book & Directory*

*St. Ambrose  
Church*

325 S. Chestnut St. • Seymour, IN 47274 • 812-522-5304  
[www.stambroseseymour.org](http://www.stambroseseymour.org)

# St. Ambrose Church

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325 South Chestnut Street

Seymour, IN 47274

812-522-5304

Email: [info@stambroseseymour.org](mailto:info@stambroseseymour.org)

Website: [www.stambroseseymour.org](http://www.stambroseseymour.org)

Dear Parishioner,

Here is your Guide Book & Parish Directory for 2020-21. Its purpose is three-fold. First, to provide each registered parishioner and/or family with a complimentary, annually-updated, directory booklet. Second, to utilize this directory to create an awareness of the various ministries and programs available at St. Ambrose Church. And finally, as an opportunity to reach out and connect with all of our parishioners and/or families to invite them to engage themselves in the life of this wonderful parish.

Stay connected and informed with St. Ambrose by referencing our multiple communication vehicles:

- Parish Website: [www.stambroseseymour.org](http://www.stambroseseymour.org)
- Weekly Parish Bulletin ([www.stambroseseymour.org/publications](http://www.stambroseseymour.org/publications))
- E-News updates through registration with
- [flocknote.com/stambrose](http://flocknote.com/stambrose) (or text “stambrose” to 84576 to subscribe)
- Like us on Facebook St. Ambrose Church
- Follow us on Twitter @StAmbroseYouth

There is an abundance of activity in the parish. The pages immediately following will provide a brief snapshot of the programs and ministry areas, as well as highlight ways you can engage and share your God-given gifts and abilities to help enhance our efforts here at St. Ambrose. We invite and encourage you to get involved – simply contact the appropriate staff member by email, phone or in person.

Please keep this directory as a handy reference tool to utilize throughout the year. The directory will be updated annually, so if we have any incorrect information in your family listing, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office so we can update our records.

We thank you for your ongoing support of St. Ambrose and look forward to seeing you at the various liturgies, programs, events and activities planned in the year ahead. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact us, we'd love to hear from you!

May God bless you in the coming year, and may all of your connections to St. Ambrose be fruitful and faith-inspiring.

## *Mission*

We, the people of St. Ambrose Catholic Church, are called to live the Gospel message of God's love and mercy. We live our faith through worship, prayer, faith formation, and as a loving servant to those in need both in our parish and the larger community.

## *Vision*

We, the Catholic Community of St. Ambrose Church, embrace a common vision grounded in our spiritual foundation. Through God's grace, we envision a vibrant, welcoming and culturally diverse community united in faith and committed to:

- Our liturgy, through the celebration of the Sacraments together.
- Lifelong faith formation through St. Ambrose Catholic School, religious education programs, youth ministry, and adult education.
- Christian service by ministering to the needs of the parish, the larger community and the world.
- Good stewardship of our finances and parish resources.

## *Mass Times / Horarios de Misa*

### **Weekend Mass Schedule/Misas Fin de Semana**

Saturday/Sabado 5:30 p.m.

Sunday/Domingo 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.

12:30 p.m. (Bi-Lingual)

### **Week Day Mass Schedule/Misas de la Semana**

Tuesday/Martes 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday/Miercoles 12:30 p.m.

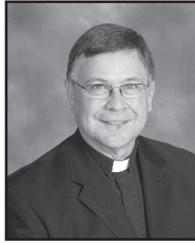
Thursday/Jueves 5:30 p.m.

Friday/Viernes 8:45 a.m.

**\*NOTE:** The liturgy schedule could be different due to COVID. Please call the office for further information.

# *Parish Staff, St. Ambrose Church*

**Parish Staff:**



Rev. Daniel Staublin  
*Pastor*



Mike East  
*Deacon*



John Cord  
*Deacon*



Robin Davidson  
*Business Manager*



Beth Pifer  
*Administrative Assistant*



Edwin Flores  
*Hispanic Ministry*



Christina Smith  
*Director  
Religious Education*



Michelle Neibert-Levine  
*School Principal*



Amy Pruden  
*School Secretary*



Andy Couch  
*Parish Maintenance  
Coordinator*

Blessings and Greetings parishioners of St. Ambrose!

St. Ambrose has been serving faithful men, women and children of the Roman Catholic faith for over 150 years. We are happy you are part of our family.

St. Ambrose currently serves over 900 families scattered throughout Jackson County. Many of these people have lived their entire life in the parish. Many have moved here because of employment, family connections and other reasons. We are of German-western European descent, some from eastern-Europe, Vietnam, Philippines, Mexico and Guatemala and other parts of the world. In short, we are a snapshot of the Universal Church!

I hope you will find your place with us to pray and to add your hands in service to the Church and the larger community.

If I can be of service to you, please contact me by calling the parish office-812-522-5304. If you would like to have your home blessed, call me and that can be arranged.

Again, glad you are here and may God bless.

Peace,

Rev. Daniel J. Staublin

## *Parish History*

Indiana became a state in 1816 and was part of the mission fields supported by the Propagation of the Faith in Lyons, France and other missionaries from France. Our parish was part of these mission fields. Accounts of Catholic settlers of German descent in Jackson County are dated 1834. During this time Mass was said in homes when a priest, usually on horseback, passed through. The home of John Culver on the northeast corner of Third and Broadway Street used by Catholic railroad workers and their families is on record as one of these sites.

The area grew in population and aspired to be a town. Meedy Shields, a Seymour founding father, offered land and \$100 to any congregation that would build a church in the future town. Jackson County Catholics accepted the offer and built a wooden church on S. Chestnut Street. Oral tradition has it that the church, a wooden structure, was dedicated to St. Ambrose in 1860. In accordance with the Archdiocese directives of the day, a cemetery was purchased and a Catholic School was started. Rev. Philip Doyle was the first resident pastor of St. Ambrose. Rev. Doyle's sister, Catherine Doyle, left the Sisters of Providence Community and became the first Catholic school teacher for the children of St. Ambrose Parish. Catherine was the first American Postulant received by Saint Mother Theodore Guerin and the Sisters of Providence at St. Mary-of-the-Woods.



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With the backdrop of the Civil War, and lawlessness in the area around the notorious Reno Gang, the church membership grew necessitating a larger church. The Cornerstone for the brick church you see today was laid on August 21, 1870.

The second resident pastor, Rev. Anthony A. Schenk oversaw the building of the St. Ambrose Academy and Day School for three sisters from the Sisters of Providence who were in charge of 120 pupils at its start in 1874. In these early schools subjects were usually reading, spelling, arithmetic, geography and history. Religion was taught as a special topic outside of the regular class hours. School was held six to seven hours daily, six days a week, ten months a year.

Fr. Schenk also enlarged the church with the addition of a sanctuary in 1884.

Then Fr. Clement Conrad was pastor at St. Ambrose for forty-six years from 1887 to 1933. The influence of his long and conscientious service was felt outside his church as well as throughout the years. Under his guidance, a new rectory was built (1891), new pipe organ installed (1907), three new altars were purchased from a New Albany church (1907), and the Knights of Columbus were established.

St. Ambrose has been fortunate to have long serving, dedicated and talented pastors over the years as the parish has continued to grow. New buildings along the way have been erected and paid for with successful capital campaigns. For example, the present school was dedicated January 29th, 1959, the present rectory was built in 1967, and the Parish Center was completed in 1997 under the leadership of Fr. Joseph Sheets.

Over the years the school children were taught by the Sisters of Providence (1873-1917), Ursuline Sisters (1917-1929) and Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict (1930-1983). Today St. Ambrose School is staffed by lay teachers in classes kindergarten through 8th grade.

St. Ambrose celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2010. Fr. Daniel J. Staublin began his ministry here and celebrated the opening of our 150th year with a Mass with Archbishop Daniel Mark Buechlein OSB in June of 2010. Father Dan uses the Parish Commissions Model and Parish Council to assist in the operation of the Parish. With a wide variety of activities and groups operating within the Parish community, it is a challenge to schedule spaces for the assorted ministries but it works.

## *Sacraments & Funeral Information*

**\*NOTE:** Schedule could be different due to COVID. Please call the office for further information.

### **Penance/Reconciliation:**

Wednesday: 12:00 p.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Saturday: 4:30 p.m. – 5:15 p.m. or by appointment

### **Anointing of the Sick:**

If you or a family member would like to receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, please call the Parish Office at 812-522-5304. If you are scheduled for surgery, you are asked to call in advance of the surgery date.

### **Sacrament of Baptism:**

Please contact the parish office to schedule an appointment with Fr. Dan. A session of baptismal preparation may be required.

Sacramento de Bautizo: Por favor llamar a la oficina de la parroquia para anotar a padres y padrinos para platicas bautismales.

### **Marriage Preparation:**

Please schedule an appointment with Fr. Dan six months prior to wedding date.

Preparación Matrimonial: Por favor programar una cita con el Padre Dan seis meses antes de la fecha de la boda.

### **Holy Eucharist:**

**First Communion:** At St. Ambrose School, children receive their First Holy Communion in second grade. For those attending a school other than St. Ambrose School, please contact Christina Smith, Religious Education Coordinator – Preschool – 12th Grade at 812-522-5304 x 322 to learn about our sacramental preparation program. Please keep in mind that child must have received at least one year of preparation for Religious Education prior to preparation for receiving Sacraments.

**Homebound Communion:** If you would like to receive the Eucharist but are unable to attend Mass due to ill health, infirmity, or advancing age, you may arrange to have Communion brought to you. Please call the parish office at 812-522-5304.

### **Confirmation:**

Confirmation is typically received by students in their sophomore year of High School or older. You must have been involved and active in our Youth Ministry Program at least one year prior to participate in Sacramental Preparation.

If you do not meet these criteria we ask that you join us for Youth Group's Word on Wednesdays and service projects before enrolling in Confirmation.

### **Funeral Scheduling Information:**

To schedule a funeral, please call the pastor at the parish office at 812-522-5304. We will need to know the name of the deceased, the name and telephone number of the family contact, and the name of the funeral home. We will obtain any other necessary information to help facilitate funeral planning, which will involve the availability of the priest, the church, and other parish facilities.



## *St. Ambrose Catholic School*

301 South Chestnut Street ~ Seymour, IN 47274

Phone: 812-522-3522 ~ Fax: 812-522-3545

[www.stambroseseymour.org](http://www.stambroseseymour.org)

Facebook: St. Ambrose Catholic School-Seymour, Indiana

**Mission Statement:** Led by Christ through prayer and study, the St. Ambrose Catholic School Community encourages a lifelong commitment to faith, learning, leadership, and service.

St. Ambrose School is a Preschool through 8th grade school serving the families of St. Ambrose Parish and the Seymour community. A formal Catholic education has been offered to our community since 1858.

St. Ambrose is a member of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, which serves the central and southern portions of Indiana. The parish and school follow the guidelines mandated by the Archdiocese.

St. Ambrose School is truly unique to this community. It is the only school in Jackson County to integrate Roman Catholic values in all curricular subjects and extra-curricular events. We believe that in having such values integrated in all we do, that we provide the best possible education for the youth of St. Ambrose.

Our school is a community of learning. As part of the Catholic Church, it strives to teach proper behavior of Christian citizens. The faculty and staff set an orderly environment so that the educational process may take place. Parents or guardians are expected to support the commitment of the Catholic school and be a good example for their children. Spiritual development is encouraged through weekly attendance at liturgies prepared by the students and teachers. For students, it is important that they participate in Mass on weekends or Holy Days with their parents. Their faith development is supported by the reception of the sacraments, daily religion classes, and prayer. All students are to be actively engaged in the parts of the Mass including prayers, singing, and responses. Non-Catholic students will participate in all aspects of the religion program except for the full reception of communion. The efforts of all will make our educational environment unified, harmonious and successful; hence, a learning community based on strong spiritual values.

**St. Ambrose School Alumni:** Are you an alum of St. Ambrose School? If so, we are interested in reconnecting with you! If you are an alumni who would like to receive updated information on current school events, or if you are interested in reconnecting with former classmates via social events and reunions, please go to our parish website [www.stambroseseymour.org](http://www.stambroseseymour.org) or parish Facebook group.



# Stewardship

## **Welcome to the Stewardship Commission!**

### **The Mission Statement for the Stewardship Commission:**

In collaboration with our Pastor and our Parish Council, the commission is responsible for the following objectives:

1. To educate our parish that God is the source of everything we have and are, and we are accountable for the cultivation of God's gifts.
2. To direct and communicate opportunities for involvement in Parish Ministries.
3. To promote hospitality within the parish and fully engage all parishioners.
4. To develop and implement our Annual Archdiocese and Parish Stewardship program.
5. To aid in the development of programs concerning estate planning, deferred gifts, and management of individual financial resources.
6. To express gratitude to our parishioners for their generous gifts of time, talent and treasure.

### **Ministries of the Stewardship Commission:**

- Buildings and Grounds for Church, Rectory, School & Cemetery
- United Catholic Appeal
- Time, Talent, & Treasure appeal for the parish
- Communications and Promotions
- Financial Endowments
- Jackson County Fair Booth
- Parish Pictorial Directory
- Hospitality Committee

All Ministries have their committees and meet when needed.

## *St. Ambrose Faith Formation Commission*

### **Faith Formation promotes and supports adult faith formation opportunities in St Ambrose parish.**

1. The Faith Formation Commission is a committee of the parish council and is consultative to the pastor and parish pastoral council.
2. It also collaborates with the parish administrator of Religious Education to implement Commission policy and attain goals.
3. These opportunities and activities are aimed to lead people in a lifelong process to holiness in an increasingly secular world.

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**The Commission offers specific ministries including but not limited to:**

- Theology on Tap for young adults 21 to 35
- RCIA
- Weekly bible studies
- Light of the World retreats for the parish
- Lenten Lectionary Studies and Reflections
- Renowned speakers to come to speak on various topics of interest
- Catholics Returning Home – a ministry to alienated and separated Catholics
- Christian musicians that come to lift up our spirits through music

## *St. Ambrose Youth Ministry*

(7th – 12 Grade)

St. Ambrose Youth Ministry meets throughout the school year on most Wednesday evenings from 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the youth area, which is upstairs in the Parish Center, for **W.O.W. ~ Word on Wednesdays**. We usually begin with a purposeful game and then break into small groups for Lectio Divina ~ reflection and discussion about the coming week's gospel and how we can apply it to our daily lives. We close with group prayer, including prayer requests, and night blessings. Our goal is to help students grow in their identity as Catholics, as well as foster friendships with people who share their faith.

Any Middle School and High School students **and their friends** are welcome at any time! Young adult and parent volunteers are always needed as mentors and chaperones for special service projects and events.

Please contact Christina Smith at 812-522-5304 ext. 322 or [smith@stambroseseymour.org](mailto:smith@stambroseseymour.org).

*Here are just a few of the things we do....*

- “We Care” Packages for college & military students
- Leaf Raking
- Community Diner (soup kitchen)
- Souperbowl of Caring
- NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference)
- ICYC (Indiana Catholic Youth Conference)
- Salvation Army Bell Ringing
- Mission Trip

*Parent/Guardian consent forms are available on our website  
<http://www.stambroseseymour.org/Youth-Ministry> or in the parish offices.*

Visit [flocknote.com/stambrose](http://flocknote.com/stambrose) or text **stambrose** to **84576**  
to sign up for updates!



## *Confirmation*



Our goal is to provide you with information and experiences that enable you to answer questions about Catholicism, get a better understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation and our call as Catholic Christians to social justice, and allow you time to reflect on your personal faith. Another goal of our program is to expose you to what it means to be an active, participating adult in the Catholic Church through participation in liturgies, education, service and retreats. By the end of the program, we hope that we have achieved these goals so that you can more consciously make your decision about becoming a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church.

Our program is based on the guidelines set forth by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, which states that each candidate complete the following:

- 20-30 hours of Catechesis
- 20 hours of Service
- Retreat Experience

Registration forms are available on our parish website [www.stambroseseymour.org](http://www.stambroseseymour.org) or in the parish offices.

Classes typically occur during the sophomore year of high school or older. Please note that **YOU MUST HAVE BEEN INVOLVED AND ACTIVE IN OUR YOUTH MINISTRY PROGRAM AT LEAST ONE YEAR PRIOR TO PARTICIPATE IN PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION.** If you do not meet these criteria, we ask that you join us for Youth Ministry's Word on Wednesdays and service projects before enrolling in Confirmation.

If you have any questions please contact  
Christina Smith at 812-522-5304 ext. 322 or [smith@stambroseseymour.org](mailto:smith@stambroseseymour.org)



# Religious Education

Preschool - 8th Grade

Religious Education is offered on Wednesday evenings throughout the school year. Preschool - 6th grade meets from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. and 7th and 8th grade meets from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Registrations can be found on our website @ [www.stambroseseymour.org](http://www.stambroseseymour.org) or in the parish offices.

Is your child going to be preparing for a Sacrament soon? Faith formation is a vital part of preparing for Sacraments. **Children/Youth that are looking forward to receiving First Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation must have received at least one year of preparation for Religious Education prior to preparation for receiving Sacraments.** Usually students receive First Reconciliation/First Communion their 2nd grade year, so that means as 1st graders it is important that they are enrolled and attending Religious Education Classes.

**SPRED** (Special Religious Development) utilizes a variety of programs and adaptive materials to provide an environment in which persons with developmental and cognitive disabilities can experience ongoing faith formation, as well as positive integration into the liturgical and community life of the Church. The annual SPRED Mass offers special opportunities to experience Christ through participation in the Mass.



*If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:*

*Christina Smith, Coordinator of Religious Education 812-522-5304 ext. 322  
or [smith@stambroseseymour.org](mailto:smith@stambroseseymour.org)*

*Visit [flocknote.com/stambrose](http://flocknote.com/stambrose) or text **stambrose** to **84576**  
to sign up for updates!*

## *Spiritual Life*

The Spiritual Life Committee is a standing committee of the parish pastoral council, dedicated to the promotion of active participation in worship and programs in spiritual development.

The overall purpose of the Spiritual Life Committee is to assist the pastor in planning and providing for the spiritual development of the members of St. Ambrose through liturgical celebrations.

The Spiritual Life Committee is active and helpful in preparing parish liturgies and prayers, setting parish policy regarding liturgy, and educating the parish in issues of liturgy. The Spiritual Life Committee is also involved in recruiting and training liturgical ministers including lectors, greeters, music ministers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, sacristans, servers, and those focused on making our Church environment beautiful and sacred.

The Spiritual Life Committee assists the pastor and the pastoral staff in forming and maintaining a vision of liturgy which is truly the source and summit of life at St. Ambrose.

### **Opportunities to serve are as follows:**

**Committee member:** The committee meets on the third Tuesday of the month as needed.

The committee meets around nine times per year to plan upcoming liturgies and evaluate past liturgies.

**Congregation:** All people at the liturgy are responsible to participate fully in the liturgy.

**Lector:** The lector is instituted to proclaim the readings from sacred scripture.

**Hispanic Ministry:** The Hispanic Ministry serves to help coordinate Hispanic liturgical offerings which include:

- La Celebración Misa bilingue (Bi-lingual Mass celebrations.)
- Música Litúrgica (Musical liturgy)
- Celebraciones especiales (Special celebrations)
- Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe (Our Lady of Guadalupe)

**Music Ministry:** The goal and purpose of the Music Ministry is to enhance the experience of worship by heightening the Word of God with music and to provide beauty to the liturgy through music. Those involved are cantors who lead the congregation in singing and musicians who provide the instrumental music.

**Greeters:** The church Greeting Ministry is a vital part of welcoming visitors to our church. It helps shape the first impression a church presents to potential parishioners. The greeters also serve as ushers who help seat people for Mass and collect the offering.

**Servers:** A person (usually boys and girls from the parish) who helps the celebrant during a liturgical service.

**Arts and Environment:** A group of parishioners who design and prepare the worship space in accordance with the liturgical calendar.

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**Sacristans:** Prepare the Altar area before and after Mass.

## *Finance Committee*

### **Purpose and Function**

#### **Purpose:**

The Finance Committee of St. Ambrose Parish coordinates all financial activities of the Parish and acts as an advisory body for planning, providing counsel and direction to the Pastor and Pastoral Council on financial matters, in accordance with Canon Law and the norms of the Diocesan Bishop.

#### **Function:**

- a. Assists and advises the Pastor and Business Manager concerning the administration of the parish goods according to Canon Law and Archdiocesan directives, policies, and norms.
- b. Directs the preparation of the St. Ambrose annual budget and assists in monitoring operations to assure budget conformance.
- c. Reviews financial reports at each meeting and presents a report to the Pastoral Council.
- d. Advises the Pastor, Business Manager and Pastoral Council on matters of financial planning.
- e. Provides support to other committees and organizations regarding financial matters.

## *Welcoming Committee*



#### **Purpose:**

We will serve as an outreach committee to promote a culture of openness and fellowship. In which new church members, those who are returning to our Catholic faith and current parishioners feel welcome and connected to our church. Our main goal is to make everyone feel welcome and promote fellowship.

#### **Responsibilities:**

Contact newly registered individuals and families to offer a home visit and provide them with a welcome packet with information about our parish.

Committee members will follow-up with newly registered parishioners with a phone call to see how they are becoming acquainted with us. Answer questions they might have and to inform them of upcoming activities at St. Ambrose.

This committee would be responsible for organizing a welcome pitch-in meal twice a year for new members of the parish to promote fellowship and make connections with other members of our parish family.

Will serve on special occasion events as requested.

For more information contact Sue John by e-mail: [sjohn1224@outlook.com](mailto:sjohn1224@outlook.com)

## *Daughters Of Isabella*

### **Daughters of Isabella, Circle 1079, Our Lady of Peace**

The Daughters of Isabella is an auxiliary to the Knights of Columbus for the purpose of uniting Catholic women in a sisterhood working together in Unity, Friendship and Charity. The first Daughters of Isabella circle was formed in New Haven, Connecticut in 1897 as a female counterpart to the Rev. John Russell Council of the Knights of Columbus. Our patroness and namesake is Queen Isabel of Spain. A member must be a Catholic woman over the age of 16.

### **Mission Statement:**

The Order of the Daughters of Isabella is a charitable organization of Catholic women founded on the principle of its motto: Unity, Friendship and Charity.

- As Catholic women and disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to minister with love, respect and justice to all humanity regardless of age, race, nationality or background.
- We recognize that our mission and faith in God calls us to experience love, compassion and mercy by helping those in need.
- We demonstrate our commitment to God's people by actively living our faith and by being a positive influence in our communities and the world.



*Picture caption: 2019 Installation of New Officers*

## *Legion Of Mary*

St. Ambrose Legion of Mary began in 1947. Members meet on Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. in the parish center for a weekly meeting and prayer.

Members pray the Rosary and Legion prayers daily. They visit and take Communion to the sick, homebound and nursing home residents. They do the sacred linens, welcome new members, make prayer shawls, and make rosaries for the missions. Call for Holy Hours on First Friday & visit new mothers and babies. It is open to any church member 18 and over.

We are part of a worldwide group. You are welcome to come to a meeting.

We currently have 8 active members and 22 auxiliary members.

Any questions, call Theresa Simmons at 812-524-8244.

*Picture caption: The Legion of Mary taking Father Dan out to lunch in celebration of his 35th Priesthood anniversary.*





## Knights of Columbus

From the moment of our founding, charity has been the first principle of the Knights of Columbus. We are Catholic men of faith and men of charitable action. In 2016, the Knights of Columbus, as an international organization, set a record in charitable giving for the 18th consecutive year.

Our charitable activities encompass an almost infinite variety of local, national and international projects. Our own unique charities include Special Olympics, Ultrasound Initiative, Coats for Kids and the Wheelchair Project.

Our local K of C strongly supports our school, church and various charitable organizations in our community. We are able to accomplish this by fundraising events like the Oktoberfest food booth, tenderloin and chicken dinners every month.

We, as Catholic gentlemen, are in Solidarity with our Bishops and Priests. If you'd like to be a part of an international organization whose principal work involves helping others in need, we'd like to meet you and invite you to join us.

Speak with any Knight or call 812-522-2989 and leave a message. We will contact you.

## St. Vincent De Paul

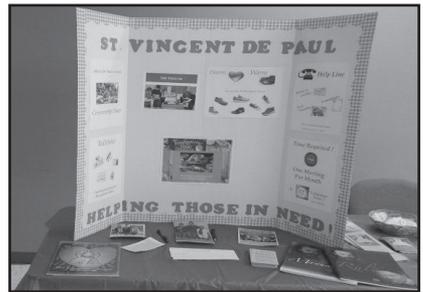
### Mission Statement

Inspired by gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person to person service to those who are in need and suffering. Helpline! 812-524-8566

The local group meets about an hour on the 4th Thursday of the month in the Parish Center at 6:00 p.m.

### Projects:

- Help people in need in Jackson County by assisting in paying for utilities, food, rent, medicine, etc.
- Providing lodging for short periods of time.
- Provide shoes for elementary school children if needed.
- Serve meals twice a year for "Community Diner".



## *Hispanic Ministry*

The first Hispanic families began to regularly worship at St. Ambrose in the mid to late 1990's.

Today there are Hispanic representatives on almost all commissions. They are involved in the Anglo parish commissions and take the information back to the general meeting in Spanish open to all involved in the different commissions and ministries. Ideas and information are exchanged and passed back and forth this way. Edwin Flores serves as the Hispanic Ministry Coordinator.

During the winter months the Latino community hold food sales once a month to help raise funds for the parish and also as a way of coming together as a parish. It has become a tradition that a dinner-dance is organized once a year to raise money for general parish operations. Other events include the Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Posadas, Dia de Reyes, Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Our bi-lingual Mass is very well attended. We have two enthusiastic music groups that participate in the bi-lingual liturgy. In 2015 we started to see the presence of our Guatemalan brothers and sisters that have joined our parish and some have started participating in Liturgy Ministries.

Major feasts are generally bilingual, faith formation events are held Spanish/English and some Spanish feasts are observed with Hispanic traditions. Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebrations remind us that we are catholic people and one America.

Fr. Dan prays that the bi-lingual "spirit" continues to grow in our liturgies and that the Hispanic parishioners continue to take an active role in the life of the parish.



## Haiti Committee

The Haiti Mission was started as part of a Twinning Program that links parishes in poor countries with parishes in America. We have twinned with St. Therese Parish in Gaspard, Haiti since 1998. Our initial commitment was to help with a medical clinic. To support the clinic, St. Ambrose needed to commit to sending \$900 per month to our sister parish. In order to accomplish this, the committee requested that 180 parish families each commit to contributing \$5 each month to support this medical mission. The commitment was reached and St. Ambrose parishioners have supported the mission and many additional needs of the community for the past 23 years. When funding allowed, we have also been able to help other projects in the diocese. Over the last couple years, we have initiated dialog with other charities that support the area and are finding additional ways to partner with these groups to further help the people of Gaspard. Some of these groups are Food for the Poor, Caritas, and Solidarity Haiti.

Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. Here are some fast facts:

- One of the top 10 water-poor countries of the world
- One in five children die before reaching the age of five
- Life expectancy is about 25-30 years less than the US
- Most people lack access to medical care
- Most people live on one or less meals a day
- Most homes lack electric, running water, and other modern standards
- Lack of job opportunities

One goal of the committee has been to start making mission trips to Gaspard again. This should greatly help us determine how we can best serve them with our time, talent, and treasure as well as build a stronger relationship with our brothers and sisters in Haiti. We would like to help them find ways to break out of poverty and improve their quality of life. Many different backgrounds are needed to support trips (medical/dental/vision/pharmacy persons, educators, builders, project managers, electrical folks, IT folks, financial folks, mission team support folks, etc). Please prayerfully consider a future trip. If you think you are called to a trip, but are unsure how your presence might be helpful, please contact the leader of the committee to discuss.

We currently meet quarterly and invite all parishioners to join us. Funds are sent down to Gaspard from St. Ambrose quarterly after the committee prayerfully assesses the needs presented by the priest at St. Therese on behalf of the church, community, school, and medical clinics. Because of the extreme poverty in the area, the needs exceed the amount of money that is currently being donated, but they do very much appreciate the help that you are giving.

Please continue to generously support our sister parish, St. Therese thru the envelopes that you should be receiving with the regular parish envelopes (please mail into St. Ambrose or drop in collection basket or simply mark an envelope with "Haiti Mission" if you are not receiving the envelopes). Please keep the priest and parishioners of St. Therese in your prayers.

Please contact John Rennekamp at 812-498-1084 with questions or if interested in joining the committee.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry of St. Ambrose Church began in the summer of 2009. The ministry met its goal to make and present shawls to the forty plus homebound parishioners within its first 12 months of existence. The ministry continues to knit for the homebound and in July of 2010 began knitting the white garments needed for the sacrament of baptism.

Ministry coordinators Kay Melton and Kitty Lewis work with Deacon Mike East to receive names, bless the shawls, and deliver shawls through the Eucharistic Ministers. Names also come to the ministry through word of mouth.

The Hispanic group meets each Monday at 6:00 PM in the cry room at church. Other participants in the ministry knit at home.

All are welcome. The ministry will gladly teach a beginning knitter or help someone regain their skills. Patterns for various skill levels and the bags and tags used in preparing shawls for presentation are available through the coordinators.

The knitters who are inspired to knit for this ministry know the power of prayer and the need of each soul to be remembered and comforted when they face difficult times not of their choosing. Christ has no hands on earth but ours so we reach out.

Knitting needles in this ministry become instruments of prayer. We ask for the blessing of comfort on the shawl recipients and if possible that their health be restored. We hope they know others care.

