

St. Ambrose Parish

AUGUST 8, 2021
BEEHIVE

Sharing the Light about ...

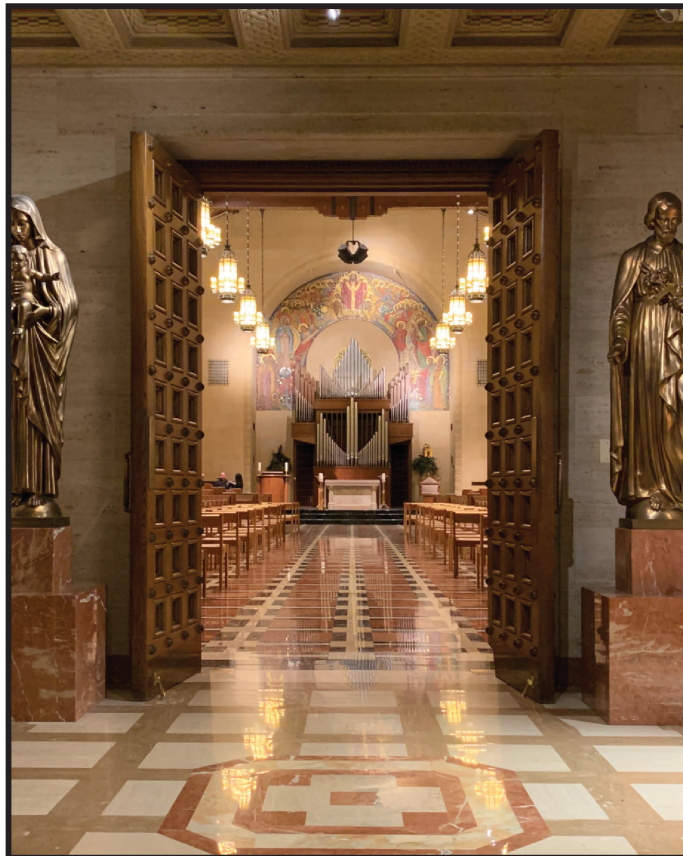
St. John's Center – Plymouth

In an August 2nd letter addressed to the clergy of the Archdiocese, Archbishop Allen Vigneron disclosed the following information: "In recent years, in response to what we discerned to be God's will for us at Synod '16, we in the Archdiocese of Detroit have fully committed ourselves to a missionary transformation, aligning all of our efforts to mission over maintenance. During this process, it has become clear that the resources associated with St. John's are best spent on efforts directly related to our mission to share Christ in and with our community. Coupled with the present challenges for a Catholic organization to operate a hotel conference center, the path forward became clear."

Located in Wayne County off Five Mile Road between Sheldon and Northville Roads, St. John's Provincial Seminary was established in 1948 as to provide graduate-level theological education and spiritual formation for diocesan priesthood candidates from the Michigan dioceses. From 1948 into the 1980s, it was common for students to enroll at St. John's after graduating from the high school and undergraduate programs at Detroit's Sacred Heart Seminary. St. John's Provincial closed in 1988 when the Archdiocese designated Sacred Heart as its major seminary with the introduction of a Graduate School of Theology to its College of Liberal Arts. In 1994, Cardinal Adam Maida brought forth a vision of reviving the St. John's property as a resource for diocesan youth and families resulting in the community gathering place that exists today.

What is the history of developments at St. John's?

- After an initial period of dormancy, Cardinal Adam Maida in 1994 revived the property as a resource for youth and families. The former seminary would see three phases of construction and expansion from 1994 to 2006.



- In 1996, St. John's Center for Youth & Family opened in Plymouth, Michigan, on the south side of the property. These renovations addressed deferred maintenance and conversion expenses.

- In 1998, the rebirth of the historic facility surged again when work commenced on area development of St. John's main buildings into a comprehensive center for corporate and social conferences, Catholic weddings and celebrations.

- Ten acres of adjacent land was acquired from Northville Township to allow for expanding and upgrading the recreational component of the conference center.

- In 2000, the grand opening of St. John's Golf & Conference Center marked the completion of the careful restoration process.

- In late 2005, there was an addition of a ballroom built, with seating for up to 450.

- In early 2006, St. John's entered a new phase of development with the opening of the privately owned and financed "Inn at St. John's" hotel on the property. The conference and banquet center capabilities were substantially expanded with this addition of on-site hotel rooms.

- In 2018, the hotel building ownership was conveyed

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St. John's – Plymouth

Continued from page 1

from the estate of William Pulte to the Archdiocese. In 2021, the entire complex was purchased by Pulte Family Management, SJLLC.

- From 2009 until 2021, an independent Board of Directors monitored operations and advised Archbishop Vigneron on the strategic planning developed to contribute to the overall missions of the Archdiocese.

- In 2021, after prayerful discernment and at the recommendation of the Finance Council and College of Consultors, the entire complex was sold to Pulte Family Management, SJLLC. Through a long-term lease agreement the Archdiocese of Detroit continues to support an active Catholic wedding ministry at the Chapel of Mary and Joseph (formerly St. John Chapel). Prior to the sale, St. John's Plymouth, better known by its marketing brand name of "The Inn at St. John's," generated positive cash flows, establishing reserves for maintenance of the entire complex.

Why did the Archdiocese of Detroit sell St. John's?

In recent years, in response to what we discerned to be God's will for us at Synod '16, we in the Archdiocese of Detroit have fully committed ourselves to a missionary transformation, aligning all of our efforts to mission over maintenance. During this process, it has become clear that the resources associated with St. John's are best spent on efforts directly related to our mission to share Christ in and with our community. Coupled with the present challenges for a Catholic organization to operate a hotel conference center, the path forward became clear.

What will the Archdiocese do with the proceeds from the sale of St. John's?

Our focus will be on supporting missionary initiatives and the work of evangelization in the Archdiocese of Detroit. A more detailed plan is being developed and will be shared in the coming months.

What was the sale price?

Financial details of the sale have not been disclosed at this time.

Why did the Archdiocese invest in developing a Retreat Center at St. John's? Why did the Retreat Center close?

St. John's Center for Youth & Family was developed as a regional resource for the Archdiocese, its parishes, schools, councils, and staffs, as well as for state and national organizations holding workshops, programs, and retreats. The vision was to retain the religious purpose of the complex and support youth and family ministries with revenue generated by the for-profit enterprises located on site – the conference center, golf course and hotel.

While weekend bookings were consistently good,

the Retreat Center did not attract enough activity during the week, and its expenses outpaced revenue from the for-profit operations at St. John's. The Archdiocese provided operating subsidies to the Retreat Center for several years until suspending operations at the facility in November 2009.

Where did the Archdiocesan funds come from?

Funds for renovations and Retreat Center operations at St. John's were obtained from the Archdiocesan Loan Deposit Program (LDP), which is an internal financial platform that the Archdiocese created more than 70 years ago to facilitate savings from parishes, schools, and other Catholic organizations in southeast Michigan and to make loans available to those same depositors.

Prior to the sale of the property to Pulte Family Management, SJLLC, were Archdiocesan funds being used to operate the complex?

No. The complex has been financially self-sustaining for many years, generating sufficient income and cash to maintain the buildings, facilities, and grounds, including the shuttered Retreat Center. The hotel and conference center typically hosts about 200 weekend weddings and receptions annually. Corporate conference center bookings during the week are strong.

Prior to the sale of the property to Pulte Family Management, SJLLC, who oversaw operations at St. John's?

A six-member board of directors appointed by and reporting to Archbishop Vigneron provides oversight of operations at St. John's. Two ex-officio appointees to the St. John's board help ensure operations are consistent with Catholic teaching and values.

Who now owns the buildings and land at St. John's?

The entire complex, including the hotel and golf course, is owned by Pulte Family Management, SJLLC. The Archdiocese of Detroit entered into a long-term lease agreement with buyer Pulte Family Management, SJLLC, for the continued use of the Chapel for its active Catholic wedding ministry.

What is next for the Inn at St. John's?

The Archdiocese of Detroit leases the continued use of the Chapel of Mary and Joseph (formerly St. John Chapel) for its active Catholic wedding ministry. Regarding the rest of the property, Pulte Family Management announced that the hotel, conference rooms, and reception centers will continue to serve and support business, civic, and private events. They have also confirmed that the golf course will operate as usual with daily tee times, organized outings, and events and league play. Future plans for the property include upgrades that will be announced by Pulte Family Management in the coming weeks and months.

Information provided by the Archdiocese of Detroit

All Things Considered

The task of reconfiguring the entirety of parish-life here in our Archdiocese through the Family of Parishes project is a task that seems fantastical to me – but quite frankly, I believe my first priority is to rebuild our parish that had been decimated by Covid.

Now, the almost total physical destruction of the ARK, and severe damages to our offices and other buildings because of the June flood makes reconfiguring St. Ambrose an even more comprehensive task. In whatever years God and the Archbishop allow me to be your pastor, we may never get back to the “full head of steam” that we enjoyed pre-Covid.

Buildings and things are easy to fix in comparison with bringing persons back to worship in a community living in the lingering shadows of a pandemic and harboring an increasing loss of trust in the American Catholic Church in general. But I’ve got to try and you have to do it with me.

While there is a detailed playbook for Family of Parishes, there is no playbook for the post-pandemic rebuilding a parish. Its a task that not only we Catholics, but every religious community is struggling with right now.

We’ve already begun by reinstating some parish social events. Last month’s Motor City Makeover was one of those. What a surprise it was to see that Detroit may have been in quarantine, but it was not dormant. We’ll soon enjoy Kayaking the Canals.

This year with the feast of the Assumption falling on Sunday, I reasoned that it was an opportune time for another rebuilding event. That leads us to our first-ever Block Party. Everyone living in the streets around us took a huge hit with the flood and we’re all stressed to the max. So we’re borrowing some cookers – and grilling up

Sunday lunch for the neighbors. We’ve got absolutely no supplies for a party, but maybe this is one of those “loaves and fishes” kind of things. Chef Vonzell is resourceful enough and so are we. Let’s see if we can have enough leftovers to go back to supplying Sunday dinner for the St. John’s Homeless Center and our friends at the GPP Public Safety as well.

In terms of OYSTERFEST, the jury is out. Actually, our Parish Pastoral Council at our pre-flood meeting unanimously recommended to me to take a pass on the event for this year. The loss of our ARK kitchen would certainly make everything more difficult. We’ve already got some of the basics like permits, licenses and tents lined up. What I am considering at the moment is a joint party with our new family – Sts. Matthew, Clare and Paul. But as of this writing I have yet to discuss this with the leadership of those parishes. It might be fun and a good way to ease into more of collaboration.

We’ll continue our electronic worship outreach which has kept our presence alive in many households during the last year and a half. But at the same time, we’ll encourage our parishioner base to return to Holy Communion in person. We’ve developed some very safe procedures for assembly, and we’re looking pretty prescient by never removing our mask-requirement. If anything, we’re overly cautious in regard to health practices.

In addition to worship, we’ve begun to revitalize our Sunday School Religious Education Program. In-home learning this past two semesters was OK, but as most educators and parents, the CDC and the American Pediatric Association attest, the classroom dynamic is optimum. Barring any major setbacks, we intend to return to the Sunday School in October and it would be best if we did so with a complete complement of catechists and classroom aides. If you’ve taught for us before, we hope you’ll return. If you can teach for us now, we need you. If we don’t tend to the faith formation of the next generation, that will rack up another Covid-related loss.

In that regard, we hopefully can return to a more normal sacramental schedule in terms of First Penance, First Communion and Confirmation. I think we’ve actually caught up with all the missing souls who postponed reception those sacraments during Covid, but if we’ve missed someone, we’re accommodating. What we are most absorbed with now are delayed weddings and funerals that have been pending for months and months. None of this is easy with our phone system reduced to two sometimes active units.

To keep St. Ambrose authentically Catholic, we need to keep our outreach going especially to the poor. Our St. Vincent dePaul Society is enjoying a brief repast because of stimulus checks and child aid from the Federal government. When those end, then their job will be back to normal – that is bad. Fresh blood in our SVdP system is required.

And in terms of revenue, nothing happens without your continued support. Electronic giving has been a life-saver. If you’re not doing it, please begin now. Salaries, insurances, utilities and Archdiocesan taxes all have to be met. Unfortunately, it looks like we will enter this Fiscal Year already in a \$20,000 hole due to a CSA shortfall – and if we don’t have an OYSTERFEST, there is a little matter of some \$40,000 in the budget to plug. But hey, finances follow faith.

✠✠✠

The sale of St. John Seminary in Plymouth for me is another depressing sign of just how far in decline we have fallen as U.S. Catholics and as members of the Archdiocese of Detroit. Built by Cardinal Mooney in 1947, St. John Seminary was one of the grandest theological training centers for priests in the world. It was a companion piece to the North American College in Rome, which was also project of Cardinal Mooney. It was built on a prime piece of real estate – the highest point in Wayne County – and its tower pushed that even higher. Yes, Catholicism in our Archdiocese was at the top of its pre-Vatican II form. For decades,

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All Things Considered, cont

Continued from page two...

St. John's housed 200-300 hundred seminarians at a given time training for ministry in Michigan at the height of what was a post-war vocation boom.

By the 1980s, however, the flow of vocations and our Catholic self-image was sputtering. After a series of strange administration/faculty changes and an enrollment of under 50, St. John closed and the remaining graduate-level seminarians were located back at Sacred Heart Seminary's college campus. The magnificent dream of Cardinal Mooney lay fallow for years. The property escaped a sale by Cardinal Szoka only by the arrival of Cardinal Maida who visioned the old seminary as a creative resource.

Along with Bishop Kevin Britt and Fr. John West, I was part of a team commissioned to bring the building back into use. One of the projects of which I am most proud in my career was the redesigning of the chapel. (Parishioners of the old St. Martin's Parish may recognize in today's front page photo their statues of Mary and Joseph that I relocated there.)

Since that grand re-commissioning, in 1994 that property proved its worth. It was one of our Archdiocesan gems from our past re-purposed for tomorrow. That is, until Archbishop Vigneron assessed it differently, maybe more soberly.

We are indeed in a different model of ecclesiology today – where programming not property is the priority. But my belief in an Incarnational Church says to me that our great architectural legacy of faith-past does have value in giving evangelical witness today. I can not help but feeling a sense of profound loss for the Catholics who built that complex and for those who rescued it. During my lifetime in ministry, we have lost too much – people and places. And while it can be argued that we had too much and aren't a Church that builds a lasting city, there is something to be said about not being too willing to jettisoning our patrimony based on the exigencies of the moment.

TRP

The Buzz

This is the third weekend that the Liturgy of the Church is engaging us in a reflection about being people of the Eucharist. Ordinarily in the Year-B cycle of Sunday readings, five weeks at this time of year are spent delving into just one chapter (6th) of John's Gospel. (This year, the Holy Day of the Assumption of Mary next weekend will supercede part-4 of the reading. But I'll tell you what got replaced in a moment.)

Today's 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time has Jesus making his listeners "murmur" more and more about His being the bread of life, and that whoever eats His flesh will live forever. They were trying to get a handle on this crazy.

Something crazy happens to Elijah from our first reading. You really have to read what happened before today's passage, and then what happened afterward to catch how truly crazy the details are. Just to tease you: God led the prophet on an 800-mile out-of-his-way journey to get where He wanted him to be. (Spirit, yes; but no Spirit Airlines in that trip!) Crazy.

So now, how crazy are you and I willing to be if we say Amen to communion with Jesus . . . how much might it change the direction of our life's journey? And certainly more than geography, can we see ourselves on a path nourishing the lives of others in a way that they will live forever? Crazy.



Next Sunday (in a year when it doesn't fall on August 15) would have been the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings we're missing this year are Proverbs 9: 1-6; Ephesians 5: 15-20, and John 6: 51-58. Sometime in the next couple of weeks, why not read them on your own and fit them into the 5-week consideration about Eucharistic themes. We'll pick it up again on August 22nd.



But as for next Sunday, there is a communion issue implicit in celebrating the Assumption of Mary. As a guy, I've always had a very intellectual, removed relationship with the Solemnity. Traditionally I was raised with this special day as a time to focus on Mary as our honored and powerful mother – fully and completely ensconced in heaven – and still the most approachable and understanding person there on our behalf.

As I grew older and tried to keep in touch with the maturing theology of the Church about Mary, I found a much richer, deeper, and more challenging angle on the meaning of the Assumption. This day celebrates the eternal fulfillment of the first one who said YES to the call to "bear" Christ to the world. And the heart of this message is not about the biology of motherhood (men have a chance here!); it is about the lived faith of the Christ-ian who is in communion with Jesus. Mary is praised and honored in scripture and now, not so much for her biological/familial motherhood, but rather as the perfect disciple.

Every man as well as woman who is baptized has a destiny to follow Mary in bearing Christ into our world. This is always for the sake of others, not ourselves. The Assumption reminds us that the result of such a selfless response to God's call is an everlasting communion that fulfills all that we are and could ever hope to become. Mary shows us what happens if we stay strong and persevering in the labor the Lord sets before us.



Finally, before I'm scheduled to "buzz" again in two weeks, I will mark on Friday the 20th – the beginning of my 49th year of full-time parish ministry. Crazy. What isn't though is my annual plea to you to pray for me that I might serve you better tomorrow than I did today. And as we enter this year of transition into the Families of Parishes, I feel your prayer as more important than ever. And as a Capuchin friend once said – Thanks ahead of time!

Chuck Dropiewski

FEMA Disaster Assistance

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, via the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has asked us to relate to those who's property was adversely effected by the recent flood to the following information for those seeking governmental help.

- Persons who still need clean-up assistance, especially those who do not have others to help should call 211 and request "crisis clean-up."

- To ascertain if you have a claim, register at 1-800-621-3362. The local FEMA office is at the Golightly Center, 900 Dickerson in Detroit and is open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The phone there is 1-800-659-2955. Have the following information: Your address and zip; documentation of the condition of your damaged home; insurance information, if available; SS#; phone where you can be contacted; address where you can receive mail or email address.

- Online registration is also available at DisasterAssistance.gov.



Not many places enjoy waterways like we do here in the Detroit area.
So join us for a guided 2-hour Kayak Canal tour this August!

This tour takes you out to the Detroit River, around Grayhaven Island, past the Fisher Mansion and by the waterfront residences of Jefferson Chalmers. Take in a new vantage point of our city and learn about some of Detroit's unique history!

Saturday August 21st at 10:00 a.m.
\$60 per kayaker with the option of either a
single or tandem kayak

This private tour is professionally conducted by Detroit River Sports and is great for beginners and experienced kayakers alike!

Kayak and safety equipment provided.

Reserve your spot now at stambrosechurch.net
stambrose@comcast.net or 313-822-2814

2	0	CSA
2	1	Box Scores
Number of Families		800
Returns to date		129
Average Gift in '20		\$596.00
AoD Quota in '21		\$93,007
Property/Liability Insurance ...		\$52,000
Adjusted parish target		\$145,007
Received as of 8/4/21.....		\$ 70,388
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since CSA is exempt from the 7% diocesan tax, we try to 'piggy-back' our insurance premiums to this campaign. That happens only after the \$93,007 target is reached. • The insurance premiums listed – roughly \$1,000 a week – are the fund that will underwrite a majority of our flood damages. 		



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 Dropiewski

Religious Education: Kelly Anne Woolums

Minister of Music: Dr. Norah Duncan IV

Office Manager: Peggy O'Connor

Secretary: Mary Urbanski

Sacramental Celebrations

Masses: On the Lord's Day –

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:30 & 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

Monday, August 9

St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, virgin

Tuesday, August 10

St. Lawrence, deacon & martyr

8:30 a.m. – Mass – Jack Nemeh;

Ilse Ruff;

Wednesday, August 11

St. Clare, virgin

Thursday, August 12

St. Jane Frances de Chantal, religious

7:00 p.m. – Mass – Bernice Phillips,

Louisa Ference

Friday, August 13

Sts. Pontian, pope & Hippolytus, priest

11:00 a.m. - Funeral – Ann Sullivan Kay

Saturday, August 14

St. Maximilian Kolbe, priest

4:00 p.m. – Mass – For All People

Sunday, August 15

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 – Mass – For All People

11:15 – Mass – For All People



Scriptures for the 19th Week in Ordinary Time

August 9

Nm 11: 4b-15

Ps 81: 12-17

Mt 14: 13-21

August 10

Nm 12: 1-13

Ps 51: 1, 3-7, 12-13

Mt 14: 22-36 or 15: 1-2, 10-14

August 11

Nm 13: 1-2, 25-14: 1, 26-29a, 34-35

Ps 106: 6-7b, 13-14, 21-23

Mt 15: 21-28

August 12

Nm 20: 1-13

Ps 95 1-2, 6-9

Mt 16: 13-23

August 13

Dn 7: 9-10, 13-14

Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 9

2 Pt 1: 16-19

Mk 9: 2-10

August 14

Dt 6: 4-13

Ps 18: 2-4, 47, 51

Mt 17: 14-20

August 15

1 Kgs 19: 4-8

Ps 34: 2-9

Eph 4: 30-5: 2

Jn 6: 41-51

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary August 14th-15th

Saturday Mass at 4:00 p.m. (Broadcast online on Sunday starting at 8:00 a.m.)

Sunday Masses at 8:30 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

There is no limit on seating capacity – but distancing is still required.

Contact tracing and temperature taking are no longer required. Wearing face masks at St. Ambrose is asked of the vaccinated and unvaccinated.

To participate electronically, go to: facebook.com/stambroseparish where the Saturday liturgy will be available for viewing starting at 8 a.m. on Sunday.

For specifics on the law of Sunday Obligation go to:
aod.org/comehometohope-dispensation

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

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

On Sunday, August 1, 2021

in envelopes we received \$5,931.00

in the loose collection \$3,559.00

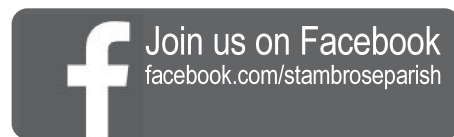
in electronic donations \$3,731.00

for a total of \$13,221.00

Over budget for the week..... \$3,121.00

Number of envelopes mailed 657

Number of envelopes used 53



Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Karen Culver, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Jeanne Noto, David Schumacker, Matthew Elias, George Bucec, Emilie Kasper, Darby O'Toole, Anna Noto Billings, Eileen O'Brien, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, Alexandra Cullen, Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Alex Billiu, Jerry Scopel, Jackie Walkowski, Kristen Kingzett, Maria Simcina, Brian Tague, Sharif Hannan, Shirley Whelan, Anne Purvis, Jerry Gutowski, Kevin O'Connor, Giovanni Morreale, Albina Checki, Judy Sivanov, Matthew Brown, Colette Gilewicz, Ann Kraemer, Lou Rondini, Ernie Ament, Al LaHood, Pearl Younce and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with COVID-19.

Our Dead

Patricia "Pat" Bonior, was born and raised in Peekskill, New York. She passed away in Carbondale, Colorado in February of this year at the age of 80 surrounded by her close family.

A funeral liturgy was celebrated by Fr. Timothy Pelc on July 27th with her family in attendance.

Pat was a former parishioner who worked at Giving Tree Montessori School in Detroit and was a recreation director at an area nursing home. She loved animals and was very artistic winning awards for her paintings.

Pat was predeceased by her first husband, Richard and second husband, Daniel.. She is survived by her children Rick, Kelly and step children, Suzanne, Kathy, Steve and Matthew. She will be missed by her eight grand children and one great-grandchild.

A funeral liturgy was celebrated by Fr. Pelc on Friday, July 30th for **David Skender**, age 76.

David was a veteran of the Vietnam war. After coming home, he worked as a tool and die technician and enjoyed traveling for business. He enjoyed large family gatherings and was great at grilling. David played the guitar and harmonica and was teaching himself to play keyboard instruments as well. David also recently bought his wife a set of drums.

David was predeceased by his brothers, Frank and Steve and is survived by his wife, Ann and brother, Dan and sister, Kathy. Also surviving, are his children, Julie and Mat. He will be missed by his six grandchildren and one great grand child.

Please keep Pat and Dave in your prayers.

POST FLOOD BLOCK PARTY



- Hosted by St. Ambrose Parish at Hampton and Wayburn in the Park.
- Sunday August 15th 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Free Food & Soft Drinks
- Live Music with OOPAPADA/ Dr. Professor Leonard King Quintet.

If you're coming, call 313-822-2814 or send an email to stambrose@comcast.net by August 13th.



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