

## What we now lack is “community”

What we in the United States need most right now – what we lack – is “community.” How does a country become a community? What’s the glue? And what do we need to do about that?

Sometimes the best advice comes from the ancients who worked their way through dark times without the help of the modern system. For instance, 17<sup>th</sup> century Japanese poet Matsuo Basho wrote, “*Do not seek to follow in the footsteps of the wise; seek what they sought.*”

Wisdom, at least in this country, is obviously at an all-time low. And as Basho wrote, the answer does not lie in doing what we have always done. The answer does not lie in going back. The answer lies in doing what’s right, what’s wise, for now.

### Here’s where we are:

The sense of “community” in the United States is broken in two. Broken about immigration. Broken about the Supreme Court. Broken about the Constitution and the glue that it has been for us for over 200 years. And so what?

This is “what”: How can a nation, an institution, a people, a family, function well without the sense of community that carries us through the dark and the dangerous times? Where is the sense, most of all, that we are doing life, politics, country together?

Then, the question becomes an eerie echo of yesterday: Can we ever get back to where we thought we were? Or what are all the holiday firecrackers about? It’s a national question, a personal question. It’s also a spiritual question.

Does community just “happen” — as in, we joined this organization so we’re part of the community — or do we

need to make it happen over and over again? And if so, how? Up until now, as Americans, we have been trained to compete, to function independently, to win, to set ourselves off from everyone else, from every other nation, from all and each of those around us. And it seemed to work. Except for the Civil War, of course. Except for segregation, true. Except for immigration, maybe. Except for all the really big questions of life.

### And then what happened?

Democracy. Real democracy — that great overarching attempt to find the *common* good rather than simply *my* good — began to waver. Its representatives themselves began to destroy it. Instead of working things out to everyone’s good, they have turned it into a very cheap football game, one side against the other, one team on top — us, we hope — and who cares about anybody else?

We’re into religious pluralism, too. Different religious groups express different values in different sacred ways and each of us have the obligation to protect what belongs to the other in each of those spaces.

But something is straining that, too. Judaism, Unitarian Universalism and Buddhism, along with multiple Christian denominations, do not teach [exactly the same mores as Catholicism]. And so what happens to the common good then? To Federal law? Whose laws prevail?

### What’s happening to us?

The problem is that democracy — what we have excelled in as a people — has also felled us. Instead of thinking the ideas through, for the best of all of us, we have begun to

*Continued on page 2...*



## "Community"

*Continued from page 1*

decide the good of the country by counting now, not by considering the effects of a given law on everyone. Now we simply count 60 Republicans; 59 Democrats. And rarely does the slightest of them reach out to the other side to make whatever it is work for all of us.

Instead, a kind of pseudo-democracy has been suborned and divides us as a people. It has closed both our ears and our hearts to one another. We're not about the "common good" anymore. We're not about community. We get further and further away from a sense of common care — the public understanding of what community is really about. And it is showing.

We are suddenly a stratified society that ranges from the destitute to the very, very, very wealthy. From government officials who made their money on fossil fuels and now refuse to abandon them for the sake of the children of tomorrow. From the experienced to the uneducated who have no free college courses to develop them, too. From the powerful to the powerless who have the money to "lawyer up" for white crime but incarcerate Blacks at a ratio of 5-to-1. And through it all we continue to flaunt a minimum wage for those who, we learned during the Covid lockdowns, were really doing the "necessary" work in society without getting a living wage.

What we need, what we want, what we now lack, in other words, is "community." Our sense of the needs of others. Our major hope, if it manages to survive, is that something new may be percolating underground, in younger people. These are the people we raised to be independent who are discovering that life is better and holier together. In fact, it is precisely community that brings so many knocking on monastery doors everywhere in order to test their vocation to religious life, to consider what community will also demand of them.

The very idea of community itself has been the foundation of religious orders for centuries. It is the sign of our commonness of soul, of purpose, of commitment to the model of Jesus who gathered the people around him and said, "Follow me." Religious know that community is not undisciplined chaos. It is communal care.

Community gathers us for a purpose. It gathers to enable us to do together what we cannot possibly do alone.

Community is not conformity. On the contrary, community — the different gifts that we bring and the lifestyle that grows us all together — makes us stronger than we could ever be without the others.

Community is not control. Community encourages each of us to grow to the acme of our best selves.

Community is not allowing myself to be carried. It is about my carrying all the others, as well.

It's on those things that community life depends and by which we must measure both the character of religious life and ourselves. In the light of political self-centeredness, we get to the marrow of it. Religious life is not somewhere to live. It is a way to live. It is a lifestyle that makes me as concerned for others as I am for myself, as immersed in the spiritual life and its character as in the power-grabbing one around us. It is a model for an independent world that is in search of its best self and its purpose.

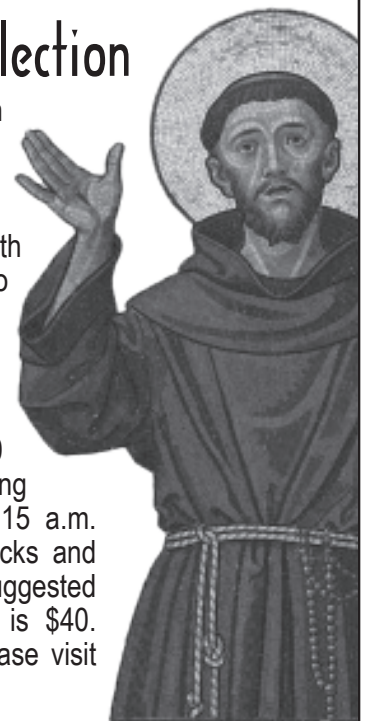
From where I stand, the country needs spiritual models of community, the very model that religious communities have been giving us as they rebuilt generation after generation. When a president refuses to give up power, no one can trust power. When a political party attempts to control their own political power by refusing to work with others, they make a nation captive to a rogue authority. Then wisdom is at a minimum, community has been abandoned, the society is in danger.

What this new age needs most are people who seek with the poet Basho the wisdom of community — both in religious communities and in society at large. Community is the glue we so badly need to hold society together — if we are ever going to revitalize this one.

*Excerpted from an article by Sr. Joan Chittister, for the "National Catholic Reporter," August 19 - September 1, 2022 issue. A Benedictine Sister of Erie, Pennsylvania, Joan Chittister is an author and international lecturer on topics of justice, peace, human rights, women's issues and contemporary spirituality in the Church and in society.*

## Mornings of Reflection

The Capuchin Retreat in Washington, Michigan on Tuesdays in Fall and Winter welcomes you, those from a different faith traditions and those who don't have one to a few hours of reflection. The morning begins with an optional mass at 8:00 a.m., registration at 9:00 a.m., and then two morning sessions beginning at 9:15 a.m. with coffee, tea and snacks and ending with lunch. A suggested donation to cover costs is \$40. For more information please visit [capuchinretreat.org](http://capuchinretreat.org)





# All Things Considered

Normally by this time in September, we would be knee deep in OYSTERFEST activity. But as you know, circumstances again dictated our taking a pass on the festival.

While we will miss the camaraderie – we will also be missing the revenue. There are three ways to mitigate some of that.

1. Be committed to regular giving. Electronic works best.

2. Give something extra to this year's Catholic Services Appeal. Now that we have reached our Archdiocesan goal, every donation comes back to our parish without the 7% tax taken out of it. That (and Christmas) are the only times that happens. So

if you want to support St. Ambrose, but have an issue with our "parent company" here is how to manage that.

3. Market the heck out of the Raffle. Do what you can to buy or sell the ten tickets that were mailed to you. Ask for more to take to work or to your next family party. Send some to Ambrosians/neighbors who have moved.

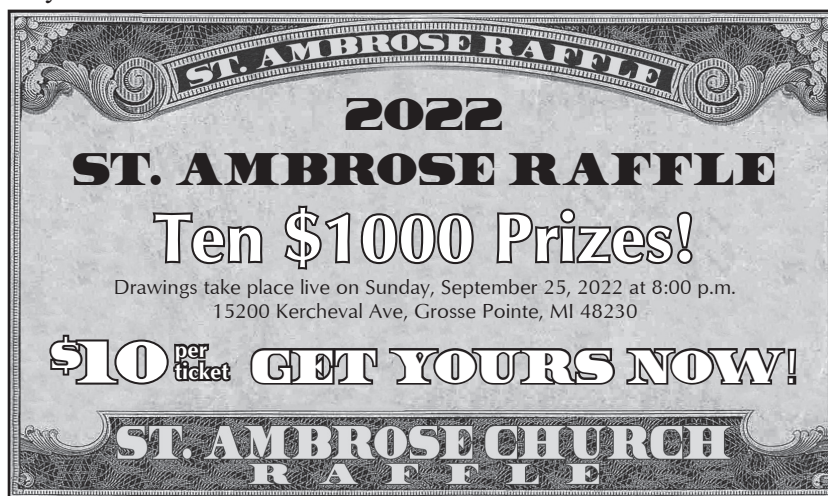
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When Frs. Novelly, Kowalczyk, Bilot and I met in July regarding the covenant for our Family of Parishes, we were on Section Two, paragraph 5. When Frs. Novelly, Bilot, Kowalczyk and I finished our meeting a week ago, we were still on that paragraph.

It's not that the hours-long discussion wasn't productive, because they were. Central to that discussion was the relationship we would have to the Parochial Schools in our Family – of which there are two. St. Ambrose has petitioned to direct our

School Charter Tax to Sts. Paul and Clare parishes. And after deduction for some "administrative costs" it appears that we will be able to funnel good, old fashioned cash to the schools most used by our parishioners.

Our discussion lead us to our Religious Education programs. Our "Sunday School" program which has been in place for almost 40 years now, is solid and serves a niche in local Catholic households already tightly scheduled with school and sports. That will be staying in the Family configuration.



Our Religious Education Director, Kelly Woolums, runs a tight ship and enjoys a solid team of teachers and classroom assistants.

St. Matthew has no Religious Education program of its own because of a small student population. They participate in the St. Clare program. As those programs change and evolve, we'll be a part of that. Just as we are already involved in joint planning with St. Paul Parish. We ran a combined Vacation Bible School program and we will be combining our Confirmation Student Retreats – just to give you a couple of easy examples.

Because of an ever-shifting demographic, there never seems to be a solution to parochial schools that fits all – or if it does – lasts very long. All these efforts demonstrate just how important Catholic Education in its many iterations is, and why we will always attempt to give our kids our best.

I don't see any immediate structural or staffing changes in our children's RE programming or in that of the other Family Parishes. But it seems clear that some future adjustments seem warranted. And that's not always a bad thing.

Prepare for the opening of our Religious Education program in just 14 days from now with an All-Class Mass at 8:30 a.m. on September 25<sup>th</sup> and a welcome back gathering afterwards on the plaza. Classes begin October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

\*\*\*

The following comes from the chairman of our Infrastructure Committee, Dr. Rory Bolger:

*"Now that the summer is wrapping up, our Committee can profess relief, but take no credit, that there has been no rain event of biblical proportions such as we suffered in the summer of 2021. That means no new damage to repair while crews continue refitting the Ark for use in the foreseeable future."*

*The August 14<sup>th</sup> Flood Party that St. Ambrose hosted for the parish and neighborhood expressed our gratitude for having collectively survived the past year's flooding (amidst a lingering pandemic) and celebrated promising improvements already materialized or yet-to-come.*

*When the Infrastructure Committee met on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, we came away with a clear set of next steps: first, to have downspouts on parish buildings and drains on the premises snaked-out and cleaned; second, to have the long-awaited dye tests conducted on those drains to confirm where rain water flows — whether back into the church's sanitary lines or into the city's stormwater pipes; and third, determine whether some drains should be capped and whether or where back flow preventer(s) should be installed.*

*Since the emergency egress stairwell connecting the ARK with the sidewalk near the front of the church*

*Continued on page 6...*

# St. Ambrose Liturgical Choir

After a lengthy absence due to the Covid pandemic, the ministry of choir now returns to our regular worship.

For now, rehearsals will only be held on Sunday mornings at 9:30 leading to the choir participating at the 11:15 liturgy.

Former choir members are invited back – new members are welcome.

In addition, we seek to expand the role of the Cantor to the young musicians in our parish.

There's lots of sacred music that deserves to be sung that just cannot reasonably be done only by a congregation. You may want to apply your talents to this great endeavor.

For more information, contact Louise Veltri through the parish office at [stambrose@comcast.net](mailto:stambrose@comcast.net) or stop up in the loft before or after Sunday's masses.



## The Buzz

A particularly delightful perk of my work at St. Ambrose has been the opportunity to spend some one-on-one conversational time with visiting missionaries. Now I don't travel much – even less during the last few Covid years. So I have thoroughly enjoyed the annual visits to far-flung places and people vicariously through these clergymen. And after a couple of years' hiatus due to quarantining and restricted travel, I was looking forward to this year's visitor once again sharing about the "bigger" Church in another part of our world.

Once again I was blessed last weekend with the opportunity to meet with the Body of Christ present through Msgr. Augustine Dery Towoni and his Christ the King Parish on a road just a bit NNW of Tinga in the Savannah Region of Ghana. Between our Saturday and Sunday masses, I was able to travel there (via Google Earth!), and with the street-view feature I could see some of the very modest buildings and the sign that announced the times of weekday and Sunday masses.

Msgr. Augustine told me about the Catholic Church in Ghana. I was amazed to learn that there are 20 dioceses in the country, with 4 of them being Archdioceses. His diocese, Damongo, is the largest in geographic area of the whole nation, and while its center is about 44 miles from the parish as a Ghanaian bird might fly, it is more like 91 miles following available roads.

Before he discerned Christ's call to priesthood, Augustine had a career as an accountant. The skills have served him and the Church well in his current vocation too. A diocesan listing of leadership and ministry groups in Damongo name Monsignor as its financial administrator, head of the credit union and co-ops, and membership on the College of Consulters, the Priest Senate, and Diocesan Development Committee.

I hope my words here help you to a bigger experience of our Ghanaian brothers and sisters in Christ, sacramentally made present to us last weekend through the priesthood of Msgr. Towoni and the Eucharist we celebrated with him. Your support through the Mission Collection, along with your genuine and deep prayer, is an important response to the never-equalled love that God first shows us. I know that I always get more from these encounters than I give. Experience the people of Christ the King Parish in your own way and see if this sense of mutual sharing – what you get as well as what you give – isn't true for you as well.



Next weekend throughout the Church in the United States is Catechetical Sunday. This year's theme is "This is my body given for you." As you may remember, the American bishops this past Pentecost launched a multi-year study-emphasis on the Eucharist. An article that accompanied this year's Catechetical Sunday theme stressed that true teaching about this sacrament cannot end with knowledge about it, nor with an intellectual agreement with its doctrine. The goal of religious education about this sacrament is not satisfied until there is complete "communion" with the person of Jesus Christ.

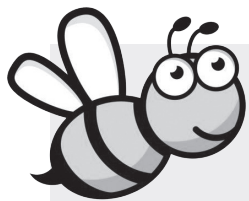
To that end, I would still like to explore on an adult level the teaching document about the Eucharist that the bishops published last fall. Let me know what you think about this.



Next week in our part of the world, on Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 9:03 EDT, the autumnal equinox takes place. Fall arrives. But I found it fascinating in further reading that this corresponds to 01:03 UTC of Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Now Friday of next week on the Catholic calendar is also the feastday of a Capuchin saint, (Padre) Pio of Pietrelcina. And I trust you remember that day is also a birthday (a quite special one this year) of our own Padre Tim. Our priest in solidum has a wonderfully supportive relationship with the Capuchin Order. How about praying for the intercession of the feastday Capuchin to let "fall" an abundant shower of God's blessings of health, energy and peace upon all our priests!

Chuck Dropiewski



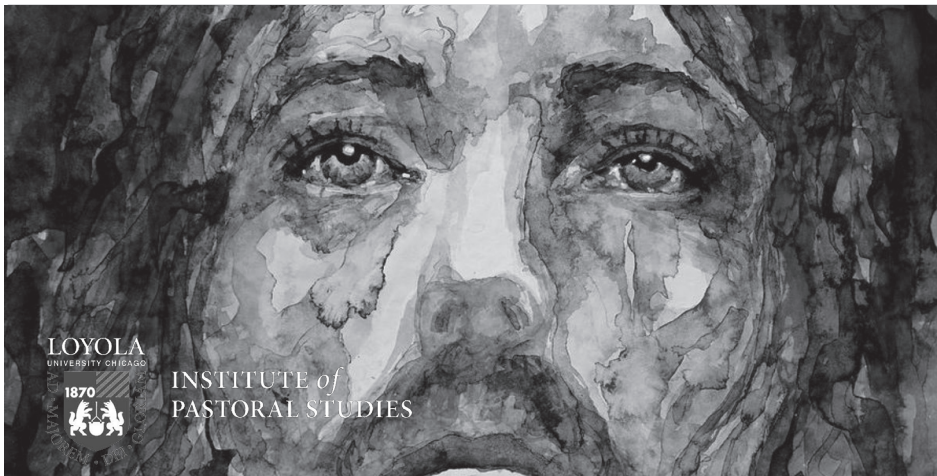


## Spelling Bee for Epiphany

Epiphany Education Center grew out of the imagination of two of the IHM sisters who taught at St. Ambrose Academy – Srs. Marie Cyril Delisi and Alice Baker.

The Center aligns itself with Samaritan Center's vision and core values of dignity, respect, excellence and self-worth. Both Epiphany and Samaritan Centers are participants in the rebuilding of Detroit's East Side.

This year's fourth annual Spelling Bee will be held on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and consist of 9 teams of 3 spellers. Registration is \$30 for an individual or \$60 for a 3-person team and you must register in advance to compete for the coveted Bee trophy! To register your team, email Sandy Mengel at [sandramengel@dlcliteracy.org](mailto:sandramengel@dlcliteracy.org)



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- Have access to a computer with internet
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TO REGISTER - visit [luc.edu/ips/](http://luc.edu/ips/)



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### CONTACT -

Kevin Pease, MTS  
Director, IPS Scripture School  
312.915.7457  
[kpease@luc.edu](mailto:kpease@luc.edu)

2	0	CSA
2	2	Box Scores
Number of Families ..... 800		
Returns to date ..... 115		
Average Gift in '22 ..... \$867.00		
AoD Quota in '22 ..... \$93,669		
Property/Liability Insurance ... \$52,000		
Adjusted parish target ..... \$145,669		
Received as of 9/7/22 ..... \$113,458		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Now that we've met the AoD quota, anything given to the CSA comes directly back to our parish without the usual 7% deduction.</li> <li>• Donations may be made in stock or other negotiables.</li> <li>• The insurance premium listed – roughly \$1,000 a week – is the fund that covers our property and liability coverage for the parish.</li> <li>• Scan this QR Code with your smart phone camera to make your donation.</li> </ul>		

## The Beehive

is the parish weekly bulletin of the  
St. Ambrose Catholic Community  
Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

**Priest in Solidum:** Rev. Timothy R. Pelc  
**Pastoral Minister:** Charles Dropiewski  
**Religious Education:** Kelly Anne Woolums  
**Minister of Music:** Louise Veltri  
**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](mailto:stambrose@comcast.net)

**Religious Education:** (313) 332-5633

**Pastoral Ministry:** (313) 332-5631

**Ark Scheduling:** (313) 822-2814

**Parish Website:** [stambrosechurch.net](http://stambrosechurch.net)

## Liturgy Schedule

**Monday, September 12**

*The Most Holy Name of Mary*

**Tuesday, September 13**

*St. John Chrysostom, bishop & doctor*

8:30 a.m. – Raymond & Genevieve Pelc

**Wednesday, September 14**

*The Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

**Thursday, September 15**

*Our Lady of Sorrows*

7:00 p.m. – Mass - Card. Edmund Szoka

**Friday, September 16**

*St. Cornelius & St. Cyprian*

12:00 p.m. – Mass - Josephine Glomb;

Geradase Engler, Margaret Poole

**Saturday, September 17**

*St. Robert Bellarmine, bishop & doctor &*

*St. Hildegard of Bingen, virgin & doctor*

4:00 p.m. – Mass – For All People

**Sunday, September 18**

*Twenty-fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time*

8:30 – Mass – For All People

11:15 – Mass – For All People



## Scriptures for the 24<sup>th</sup> Week of Ordinary Time

**September 12**

1 Cor 11: 17-26, 33

Ps 40:7-10, 17

Lk 7: 1-10

**September 13**

1 Cor 12: 12-14, 27-31a

Ps 100: 1b-5

Lk 7: 11-17

**September 14**

Nm 21: 4b-9

Ps 78: 1b-2, 34-38

Phil 2: 6-11

Jn 3: 13-17

**September 15**

1 Cor 15: 1-11

Ps 118: 1b-2, 16ab-17, 28

Jn 19: 25-27 or Lk 2: 33-35

**September 16**

1 Cor 15: 12-20

Ps 17: 1bcd, 6-7, 8b, 15

Lk 8: 1-3

**September 17**

1 Cor 15: 35-37, 42-49

Ps 56: 10c-14

Lk 8: 4-15

**September 18**

Am 8: 4-7

Ps 113: 1-2, 4-8

1 Tm 2: 1-8

Lk 16: 1-13 or 16: 10-13

## 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time September 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>

Reference # in our Breaking Bread Hymnal or on your iphone using the QR code.

**Entrance:** Praise, My Soul, The King Of Heaven # 553

**Psalm:** Be With Me, Lord #796

**Preparatory:** Amazing Grace #446

**Communion:** God Of Mercy #527

**Recessional:** There's A Wideness In God's Mercy #490



Currently Wayne County shows a **HIGH** level of Covid risk. As a result, St. Ambrose Parish is making the mask requirement for weekend masses mandatory.

To participate electronically, go to: [facebook.com/stambroseparish](https://facebook.com/stambroseparish) or better yet, to You Tube at [www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymBGIQxUF6UqPct5xFg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymBGIQxUF6UqPct5xFg)

## Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

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

**On Sunday, September 4, 2022**

in envelopes we received ..... \$5,049.00

in the loose collection..... \$1,307.00

in electronic donations..... \$4,372.52

for a total of ..... \$10,728.52

**Over budget for the week..... \$628.52**

Number of envelopes mailed ..... 621

Number of envelopes used ..... 35



## Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Matthew Elias, Mary Martin, George Bucec, Emilie Kasper, Anna Noto Billings, Eileen O'Brien, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, Alexandra Cullen, Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Alex Billiu, Jackie Walkowski, Maria Simcina, Brian Tague, Sharif Hannan, Shirley Whelan, Anne Purvis, Jerry Gutowski, Kevin O'Connor, Albina Checki, Judy Sivanov, Matthew Brown, Vince LoCicero, Lily Faith, Patty Freund, Karen Jordan, Janis Ramsey, Colette Gilewicz, Richard Strowger and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with covid.

## All Things Considered

*Continued from page three...*

was a main point of stormwater infiltration once Hampton Street overflowed last summer, the Committee is looking at measures that can be installed or kept readily available for quick deployment when the next big rain event comes along.

August 10<sup>th</sup> was the day the Committee expected a contractor to take care of the downspout and drain work. However, once the crew arrived, they quickly determined it was a job they weren't prepared to handle.

So, we are in wait mode while alternate crews are lined up. Similarly, we are waiting for clarification from the Wayne County Department of Public Services whether the Fox Creek enclosure, which runs along the parish property's edge, is in good condition or whether it might be susceptible to surcharging should pumping stations downstream fail in the future.

Lost in last year's flooding of the rectory basement were 22-year-old mechanical drawings that might have been helpful to the County (and the City) in determining possible tie-ins with the Fox Creek enclosure. Other documents loaned out in previous years for other projects are likewise MIA.

We anticipate having answers to some questions and progress to report by the time of the Committee's next meeting on Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.

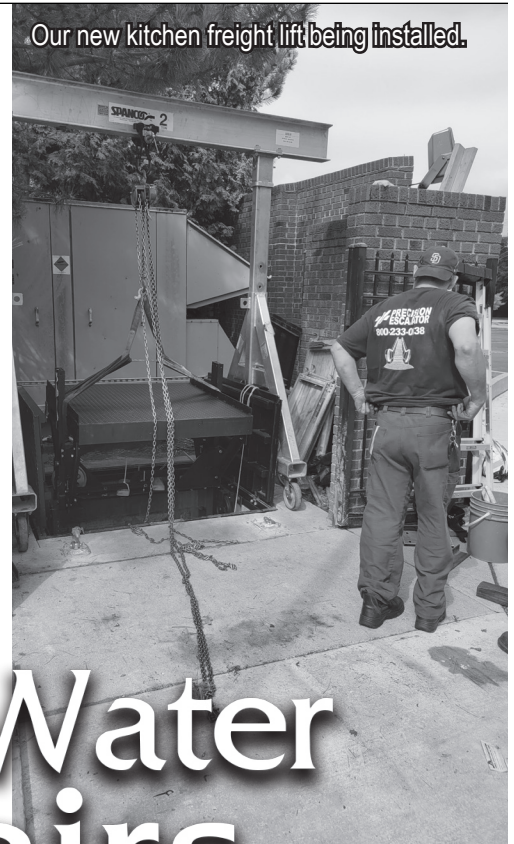
TRP



ARK wallcoverings have started going up.



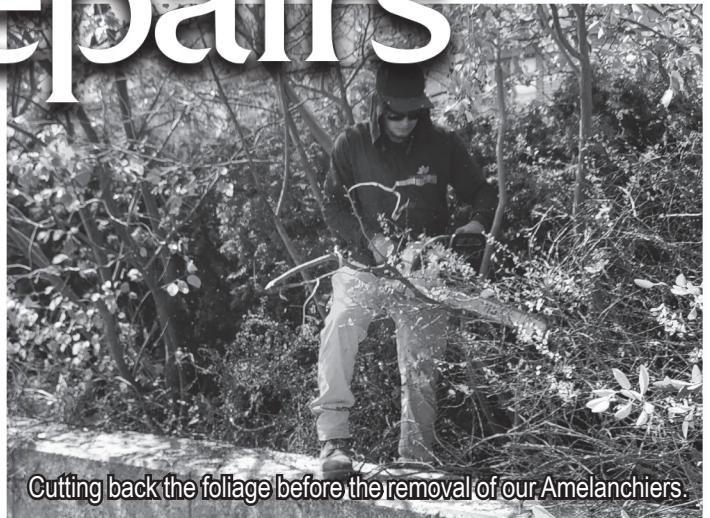
Our new kitchen freight lift being installed.



# 2021 Flood & Water Repairs



Our plaza shrubery beds along Hampton are being dug up and the concrete resealed after last year's flooding.



Cutting back the foliage before the removal of our Amelanchiers.



Yews being carefully removed for replanting later.



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