

"DESIDERIO DESIDERAVI"

Desiderio desideravi, the title of Pope Francis' 2022 document on the Sacred Liturgy, comes from the Latin version of Luke 22:15: "I have earnestly desired (desiderio desideravi) to eat this Passover with you before I suffer." Pope Francis begins this beautiful and relatively short reflection on the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Sacred Liturgy by reminding us of the Most Holy Trinity's love for us and desire for us. It is worth reading in its entirety (<https://shorturl.at/istU8>). This here a brief summary of some of the key points of the document.

The Liturgy: The "today" of salvation history

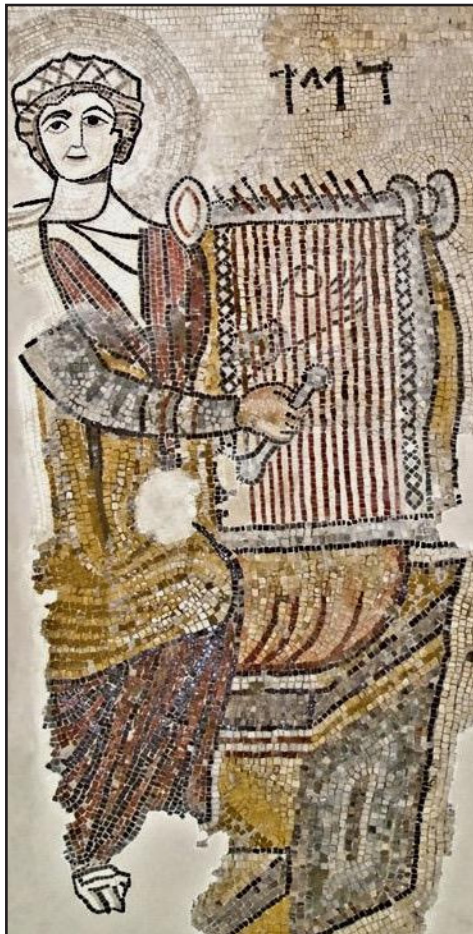
Pope Francis begins by reminding us that no one earned a place at the Last Supper; they were all invited, just as we are invited by God's grace to the altar of the Lord. In fact, all of creation set the stage for the Passover of the Lord and His sacrifice on the Cross.

The Last Supper is unique and unrepeatable, but the "wedding feast of the Lamb," the "Sacred Liturgy," is more than just the Last Supper. The Passover meal at the Last Supper was itself an anticipation of Christ's Body on the Cross, "his sacrifice of obedience out of love for the Father."

It is only this perfect act of sacrifice by which we can hope to offer a true act of worship to the Father. Though the Last Supper, the Sacrifice, and the Resurrection are unrepeatable, the Holy Mass is outside of space and time and presents once more these saving realities in the "today" of salvation history.

The Liturgy: The place of encounter with Christ

By virtue of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ, His taking on flesh, is the way that the "Holy Trinity has chosen to open to us the way of communion. Christian faith is either an encounter with Him alive, or it does not exist." In other words, the Resurrection is a reality and Christ comes to us in the Mass.



The Liturgy is the guaranteed place for this encounter with the Risen Lord. We hear His voice and eat His Body. We need Him, and we encounter Him preeminently through the Sacraments, especially Baptism and Eucharist. The Sacraments are not magic, because God is the one acting. But they are miraculous and mysterious.

The Church: Sacrament of the Body of Christ

The obedience of the Son of God to the Father is the "one act of worship, perfect and pleasing to the Father." We enter into this reality by Christ, and, in truth, the Church is borne from the pierced side of Christ, just as Eve came from the side of Adam. We can only hope to participate in this perfect act of worship by becoming "sons in the Son."

The theological sense of the Liturgy

Pope Francis reminds us that the journey to the rediscovery of the theological understanding of the Liturgy and of its importance in the life of the Church is owed to the Second Vatican Council but also to the liturgical movement that preceded it. He reminds the reader of the centrality of the Council's document on the Liturgy (which everyone should read!) – *Sacrosanctum Concilium*. (www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19631204_sacrosanctum-concilium_en.html)

Desiderio Desideravi

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The key to understanding Pope Francis' document is worth quoting at length:

"With this letter I simply want to invite the whole Church to rediscover, to safeguard, and to live the truth and power of the Christian celebration. I want the beauty of the Christian celebration and its necessary consequences for the life of the Church not to be spoiled by a superficial and foreshortened understanding of its value or, worse yet, by its being exploited in service of some ideological vision, no matter what the hue. The priestly prayer of Jesus at the Last Supper that all may be one (Jn 17:21) judges every one of our divisions around the Bread broken, around the sacrament of mercy, the sign of unity, the bond of charity" - Pope Francis

The Liturgy: antidote for the poison of spiritual worldliness

There are two main forces that, when applied to the Liturgy, cause spiritual worldliness: Gnosticism and neo-Pelagianism. In these we find the various dangers of subjectivism and rigidity. The Liturgy is not something which we frenetically do to earn God's favor and it is not about our whims or feelings. The *"liturgical celebration frees us from the poison of self-referencing nourished by one's own reasoning and one's own feeling ... the liturgical celebration purifies us, proclaiming the gratuity of the gift of salvation received in faith."* The Sacred Liturgy is what God does primarily, not what we do.

Rediscovering daily the beauty of the truth of the Christian celebration

The signs and symbols of the Liturgy must be well used and beautiful, according to the rubrics (though not slavish to them), and everything must be carefully tended to. Further, the Liturgy must not be carelessly banal or ignorantly superficial. This recognizes the concrete nature of the Liturgy.

Amazement before the Paschal Mystery: an essential part of the liturgical act

Not merely a "sense of mystery," we must marvel at what God has done and what He has concretely revealed to us in Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and in the Liturgy. We must see the beauty in the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. *"Beauty, just like truth, always engenders wonder, and when these are referred to the mystery of God, they lead to adoration."*

The need for a serious and vital liturgical formation

In this section, the Pope discusses the issues in our modern world with living completely the liturgical action. One of the antidotes is by diving into the four Constitutions of the Second Vatican Council anew and

drawing from the wisdom of the ages therein contained.

We do not simply need to know what the text of the Mass says and what the rubrics instruct. And we do not need to let ourselves be carried away with the "spirit" of liturgical renewal. Instead, there must be a serious and vital formation in the liturgy: spiritually, practically, mentally, and academically. To this end, Pope Francis gives quite a bit of advice on how seminaries ought to form students.

This education needs to be lived and Christ must be encountered. As the Pope says, *"the mystery of Christ, the decisive question for our lives, does not consist in a mental assimilation of some idea but in real existential engagement with his person."* The Liturgy is carried out by Jesus Christ and it is our place of encounter with Him, through signs and symbols.

Ars celebrandi

There is a dynamism to the Liturgy with various disciplines and kinds of knowledge that require our attention. It must be an *ars celebrandi* (art of celebrating) in harmony with the action of the Holy Spirit. The gestures, words, symbolic language, silence, sacred space, and rubrics all work together in the Liturgy and the art of celebrating comes from the priest and the people moving in and through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Liturgy is not merely a "mental adhesion" on the part of the priest. He must engage in it with his whole person: mind, body, soul, and spirit. And he must not *"rob attention from the centrality of the altar, a sign of Christ, from whose pierced side flowed blood and water, by which were established the Sacraments of the Church and the center of our praise and thanksgiving."* He must even be aware of how he is speaking, the tone he is using. This is the *ars dicendi* (art of speaking). The Liturgy is not a show, but there are certain tones of voice which are appropriate for the various parts of the Liturgy.

Ending Section

Pope Francis wants to remind us of the inexhaustible and immense treasure of the celebration of the holy mysteries. He intends to re-establish unity in the whole Church of the Roman Rite. He wants to rekindle our wonder for the beauty of the truth of the Christian celebration, to refocus liturgical reform, and recognize the importance of the *ars celebrandi*.

He ends with a vital exhortation that every Catholic of good will in the Roman Rite needs to hear: *"Let us abandon our polemics to listen together to what the Spirit is saying to the Church. Let us safeguard our communion. Let us continue to be astonished at the beauty of the Liturgy."*

From: What You Should Know About Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter on The Liturgy – Desiderio Desideravi by Will Wright for Catholic-link.org.

All Things Considered

If you have been a resident of the Grand Marais or Jefferson-Chalmers area, you are well-versed with the beauties of living near an International Waterway. You are also aware of the centuries-old battle between water and residents.

Our parish Infrastructure Committee has been trying to untangle some of the issues that flooded every one of our parish buildings in the Summer of 2021 along with vast sections of the surrounding community. While we have learned a lot about the problem, I am afraid that we are no closer to any solutions today than we were two years ago.

We are still not back online with the ARK or convent properties and freakish summer rains make us all nervous of a repeat performance of 25 months ago. New construction has the potential of helping or aggravating water issues – depending on whom you talk to. Maryland Avenue between the rectory and Jefferson becomes a pond

of standing water every time it now rains.

I am aware that addressing the water issues of this part of town is a problem that will not be solved with a single fix. But my concern is that we're not seeing any fixes.

Looking at this complex issue of interconnected water systems even before the floods of 2019 and 2022 has been Jay Juergensen. He published an engineering report **"Toward Better Water Resource Management"** less than 48 hours before the 2021 flood. It has been expanded since then using data from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA).

You can access his lengthy document at <https://shorturl.at/emo59>, but be prepared to spend some time in detailed reading. While Juergensen's compilation of data and potential solution focuses on the Jefferson Chalmers area of our parish, many of the problems are traced further "up stream."

Be prepared to be shocked with the estimated price tag that comes with implementing solutions for this problem.

I appreciate that Jurgensen has given his study a subtitle: **The Cost of Climate**. In doing so, he alerts us to the fact that climate change and water are

mixing together globally at an alarming speed. The papacy of Pope Francis regularly sounds a call to Catholics and persons of good will everywhere to face this issue as a moral imperative.

Just last week in his public audience, Pope Francis said to the crowd in St. Peter's Square: *"Please, I renew my appeal to world leaders to do something more concrete to limit polluting emissions. It is an urgent challenge, it cannot be postponed, it concerns everyone. Let us protect our common home."*

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Appropriately, two August activities here at St. Ambrose revolve around the 2021 flood and our water resources.

Kayaking the Canals of St. Ambrose on the 12th of August allows you to go in and through that marvelous riverfront in a quiet, natural way.

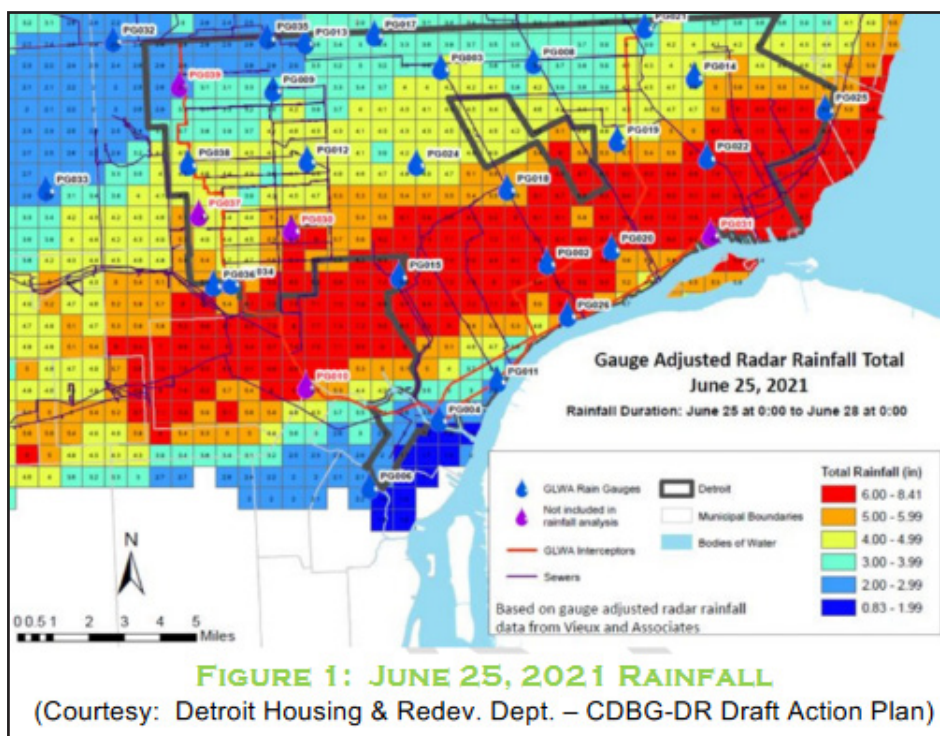
Then on August 20th, we'll once again make an outreach to our neighbors who have been adversely affected by the 2021 flood, with a plaza party. Try to join us for one or the other . . . maybe both!

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Located where we are, you're just minutes away from Sacred Heart Seminary – arguably one of the major Catholic theological centers in the Midwest. It serves as the training center for 120 seminarians preparing for the priesthood. But you many not realize that Sacred Heart also serves over 400 lay students seeking to better prepare themselves for ministry and to live out their lay vocation in the secular world.

While the majority of lay students are working towards short-term certificates covering an in-depth study of the Catechism, many others are working towards full undergraduate or graduate degrees in theology or ministry.

Take advantage of the proximity of Sacred Heart's main campus. Contact the Admissions team at admissions@shms.edu or visit explore.shms.edu/enrichment to learn more.





The 2023 CSA is in full swing. You likely have received mailings from the Archdiocese as well as from the parish. We encourage you to read through the materials and let us know if you have questions.

When you make a gift to the CSA, you support the work of more than 170 ministries, services, and programs in the Archdiocese of Detroit that respond each day to the material and spiritual needs of countless individuals and their families. If you would prefer to make your gift directly to St. Ambrose online using a credit card, debit card or an ACH withdrawal (we then make sure it is paid to the AoD), click on the QR code on page 5 in the "CSA Box Scores" box.

3rd Annual Teen Summer Mass Series

All are welcome on Sunday, August 13 at the 11 a.m. mass at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament!

Show your school spirit by wearing clothing that represents your school and enjoy Mass, together with food and fellowship on the plaza afterward.

You may also choose to bring a donation of canned goods or even some new socks for our neighbors in need!

Contact audreyschenal6@gmail.com or broses.christine@aod.org.

The Buzz

In a way, I want to call this Genie Sunday. After all, doesn't the first reading from today's mass make you think about Aladdin and lamps?! No three wishes though; God seems to give Solomon one shot: "Ask something of me and I will give it to you." Now, just about any kid could tell you that Solomon wasn't very smart when he asked for "an understanding heart." The more clever answer would have been: "a million more wishes!"

But enough foolish fun for the moment . . . Let's take another close look at today's first reading. A young Solomon is praying for "an understanding heart." Notice: he doesn't ask for wisdom, and he doesn't ask this for some self-serving purpose. In a "pleased" response, God upgrades His offer by giving Solomon a heart that is *both* wise and understanding beyond compare.

(Remember: there is some distinction made in the list of the 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit between wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Counsel, fortitude, piety, and fear – read: wonder and awe – of the Lord round out the list.)

For those who remember chapter 3 of Genesis, this Solomon episode in I Kings is a delightful contrast with how the theme of knowledge – perhaps wisdom and understanding too – was portrayed in the original sin episode. Recall that the temptation had to do with wanting to become like gods who can "distinguish right from wrong" (c.f. the forbidden tree of the knowledge of good and evil). Solomon has a much better attitude in asking for what he does, perhaps rather than grabbing something from "behind God's back!" and thus wishing not to need God anymore.

Today's second reading seems to pick up on the topic. Paul strongly suggests that you don't have to wish for anything. If you love God, you are in line to "be conformed to the image of [God's] Son." Total oneness with God. What more could you want?! No genie required. You don't even have to ask. The cost? Death . . . to an isolated, self-centered life . . . and living in communion with the risen Christ. That's the treasure – and the pearl – in today's Gospel. (As for the net-fishing and sorting parable, I was struck by how much it connected to Fr. Tim's homily last weekend about the wheat and the weeds. Ask him about it if you're interested.)

In any event, how about spending a reflective moment or two this week before August arrives deciding whether it is better to be a truly understanding and wise servant for others . . . or a self-serving "wise guy." You know what God prefers, but the choice is strictly (y)ours.



I need your help. In a little over a month, I'm supposed to be a team member leading a discussion with a group about the issue of "Synodality". Now you might be saying, 'Chuck, we can't help you not be boring . . . and then compounded by a boring topic?!' Two strikes right off: me and the topic!

But my first read about all this has been eye-opening, challenging, and exciting. It's all about the very essence of the Catholic Church and how we should operate from bottom to top. And today's encounter with the Word of God in the liturgy fits right into the core of the consideration.

Pope Francis' prophetic vision about synodality is inviting us all to take Vatican II another step forward . . . and then not stop. After all, we are a "Pilgrim People." Synodality asks us all kinds of important questions about how we need to do this. The process aiming at a worldwide "Synod on Synodality" has been going on for several years and will reach its (first) culmination next year. The support and involvement of our Archdiocese and many others in the U.S. has been anemic at best. What do you think? Do an online search about Synodality, and catch your own sense about what it all means. Then, if you are willing to lessen the boredom others may have to endure because of me, share your insights on Synodality in my direction. Call, write, or see me after mass. I need your help!

Chuck Dropiewski

KAYAK THE CANALS! of St. Ambrose Parish



Not many parishes enjoy waterways like St. Ambrose.
Join us for a guided 2-hour Kayak Canal tour this August!

We're back this summer with the *always* popular River and Canal tour which takes you out to the Detroit River, around Grayhaven Island, past the Fisher Mansion and by the waterfront residences of Jefferson Chalmers!

August 12th at 10 a.m.
Tickets are \$70 per kayaker

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

Kayak and safety equipment provided.

Tickets can be purchased at
stambrosechurch.net, calling 313.822.2814
or by scanning the QR Code to the right

2	0	CSA
2	3	Box Scores

Number of Families	800
Returns to date	103
Average Gift in '23	\$655.00
AoD Quota in '23	\$97,755
Property/Liability Insurance ...	\$57,600
Adjusted parish target	\$155,355
Received as of 7/27/23	\$67,551

• Our CSA goal is higher this year by \$4,086, but it will be as challenging to meet as it was in 2022.

• The insurance premium listed – roughly \$1,107 a week – is the cost of our property and liability coverage for the parish.

• Once we meet the AoD quota, anything given to the CSA comes directly back to our parish without the usual 7% deduction.

• Scan this QR Code with your smart phone camera to make your donation.



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:

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

POST FLOOD BLOCK PARTY

- Hosted by St. Ambrose Parish at Hampton and Wayburn in the Park.
- Sunday, August 20th
2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Free Food & Soft Drinks
- Music on the plaza



If you plan on attending, RSVP via our website at stambrosechurch.net or by using this code with your smart phone!



Liturgy Schedule

Monday, July 31

St. Ignatius of Loyola, priest

Tuesday, August 1

St. Alphonsus Ligouri, priest & doctor

8:30 a.m. – Mass – John Cardinal Dearden

Edmund Cardinal Szoka

Wednesday, August 2

St. Eusebius of Vercelli, bishop &

St. Peter Julian Eymard, priest

Thursday, August 3

Weekday 17th week in Ordinary Time

7:00 p.m. – Mass – Marlin Justin

Friday, August 4

St. John Vianney, priest

12:00 p.m. – Mass – Bp. Kevin Britt

Saturday, August 5

The Dedication of the Basilica

of St. Mary Major

4:00 p.m. – Mass – For All People

Sunday, August 6

The Transfiguration of the Lord

8:30 – Mass – For All People

11:15 – Mass – For All People



Join us on Facebook
facebook.com/stambroseparish

Scriptures for the 17th week in Ordinary Time

July 31

Ex 32: 15-24, 30-34

Ps 106: 19-23

Mt 13: 31-35

August 1

Ex 33: 7-11; 34: 5b-9, 28

Ps 103: 6-11

Mt 13: 36-43

August 2

Ex 34: 29-35

Ps 99: 5-7, 9

Mt 13: 44-46

August 3

Ex 40: 16-21, 34-38

Ps 84: 3-6a, 8a, 11

Mt 13: 47-53

August 4

Lv 23: 1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34-37

Ps 81: 3-6, 10-11

Mt 13: 54-58

August 5

Lv 25: 1, 8-17

Ps 67: 2-3, 5, 7-8

Mt 14: 1-12

August 6

Dn 7: 9-10, 13-14

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

2 Pt 1: 16-19

Mt 17: 1-9

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 29th & 30th

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

Entrance: Earthen Vessels #419

Psalm : This is the Day #808

or Center of My Life #508

Preparatory: We Belong To You #646

Communion: Bread Of Life #355

Recessional: Come, Christians, Join To Sing #560

or Holy Wisdom, Lamp of Learning #529



To participate electronically, go to: facebook.com/stambroseparish or better yet, to You Tube at 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, July 23, 2023

in envelopes we received \$6,828.00

in the loose collection..... \$2,898.00

in electronic donations..... \$3,318.12

for a total of \$12,044.12

Over budget for the week..... \$1,944.12

Number of envelopes mailed 621

Number of envelopes used 56



Join us on YouTube

www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymBGIQxUF6UqPct5xFg

Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Matthew Elias, Mary Martin, Emilie Kasper, Anna Noto Billings, Eileen O'Brien, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, James Blake, Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Alex Billiu, Jackie Walkowski, Maria Simcina, Sharif Hannan, Shirley Whelan, Ricardo Hernandez Montoya, Albina Checki, Judy Sivanov, Matthew Brown, Lily Faith, Patty Freund, Janis Ramsey, Colette Gilewicz, Al LaHood, Valerie Hudson, Jeanene Maples, Angela Hansen, Marilyn Potenga, John Freund, Carol Schaap, and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with Covid.

Help for the Helpers

g Bad times are even worse for the poor and jobless. You need to know that our St. Vincent dePaul Society here at St. Ambrose continues to serve the needy in this part of town.

A person-to-person approach is the hallmark of how the SVdP society prefers to work with neighbors in need when it comes to energy and rent assistance as well as vouchers for food and cleaning supplies. Now that many government assistance programs put in place during the pandemic have ended, there is a surge in people needing help.

If you are worried that you are not ready or uncomfortable with direct ministry to the poor, please know that there are a multitude of tasks that you can help fill to make the work of the SVdP easier. One area would be for persons with skills in grant writing. Another would be for persons to deal with charitable, corporate or government entites in order to establish resources that can be used for those in need. Another need might be for someone who has good phone skills to help channel persons seeking help to the right place. If you feel the call to help, start with discussing it with us.

Our SVdP always welcomes financial donations. Please send checks made out to St. Vincent de Paul - St. Ambrose Conference, and mail them to the Parish Office. Drop supplies in the baskets in the church vestibule or at the rectory front door, in a marked box or bag.

Voting open for Mack streetscape designs



With conceptual options now developed for a redesign of the Mack Avenue corridor intended to bring both sides of the street into greater unity, the Eastside Community Network is seeking community input ahead of developing its final design recommendations.

“We’re now at a point where we have some concepts to show the public (and) get some feedback on what the community wants to see,” said Eric Dryer, project manager with OHM Advisors, the consulting firm on the project.

The study area consists of Mack Avenue from Connor to Moross and has been broken down into three segments based on where the roadway changes.

From Conner to Balfour, the proposed options consist of:

- adding curb bumpouts and striped, on-street parking;
- adding curb bumpouts, a landscaped median and parking lanes;
- or transitioning to three driving lanes with a raised mobility lane and curb bumpouts.

From Balfour to Cadieux, the proposed options consist of:

- adding curb bumpouts and striped parking lanes;
- three driving lanes with parking on both sides and landscaped crossing islands;
- or three driving lanes with parking on one side, a raised mobility lane and crossing islands.

From Cadieux to Moross, the proposed options consist of:

- adding curb bumpouts and striped parking lanes;
- or adding curb bumpouts, striped parking lanes, midblock crossings and widened sidewalks.

Aside from on-street parking being considered a high priority, the designs also focus on traffic calming.

“How can we essentially get cars to drive the speed limit?” Dryer noted. “We’re not trying to really slow people down, but the speed limit’s 30 miles an hour and people drive 50.”

Feedback also is being sought on four separate concepts regarding unifying the corridor’s identity and wayfinding signage.

Each features rotating artwork on street lights, but varies in its use of material for lettering and poles.

“These are based on what the community had told us in the first round,” Dryer said. “Really what they wanted to see was something that was classic with some natural touches, so a lot of these include wood, like cedar, with a protective coating, a lot of black metal with gold lettering and then the idea to include public art within each of the concepts was a big thing.

“The goal with this is to have a little bit of (a) classic touch and match the existing architecture and design that’s out there.”

Written By Laurel Kraus for Grosse Pointe News, July 19, 2023. Visit grossepointenews.com

To see designs of the concepts or take the survey, visit <http://survey123.arcgis.com/share/ebe6ecfcd483479fbd59c76a645044cc> or via the QR code.

