



In 2019, Blake Grannum [St. Ambrose Parishioner and daughter of Carolyn and the late Hugh Grannum] experienced a catastrophic flood in her home in Detroit's Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood. Water overtopped nearby canals and rushed into her basement.

It was one of several floods the neighborhood experienced in recent years; heavy rains overwhelmed sewer systems and flooded basements five times between 2011 and 2021. During that last major flood on July 21, 2022, six inches of rain fell on the region, inundating freeways, stranding hundreds of people in vehicles, and filling basements with sewage backup.

Jefferson Chalmers has been called the "Venice of Detroit." It's a unique, historic neighborhood, oriented around a canal system and waterfront parks, and built on one of the vast swamps that once lined the Detroit River and Great Lakes. Neither the overbank flooding from the canals nor the sewer backups have put Grannum off the neighborhood. She now lives with her fiancé in a house that sits a few feet beneath the flood wall, next door to her childhood home. And it's clear why she might want to stay. From the dock in Grannum's backyard, you can watch boats idle past and look

out on the many ramshackle boathouses on Harbor Island in a neighborhood surrounded by water. "It's just a vibe here," Grannum said. "You have different income groups, different cultures, different types of people living in this area."

But some worry the costs that come with flooding could potentially create a process of "climate gentrification" here. In cities like New Orleans and Miami, this process has seen wealthier and whiter residents displace low-income residents and people of color in less flood-prone areas. But in Jefferson Chalmers, climate gentrification could mean those with the resources to manage the risks and expense of living in a floodplain may replace those without them.

The neighborhood is already changing; it has become more white in recent years. In 2016, 88% of the neighborhood residents were Black, and just 8.5% were white. In 2021, 74% of residents were Black, lower than the citywide average of 78%. Whites now account for 18% of residents here.

Incomes are also rising. In 3 of 7 census block groups within the neighborhood, median income increased by between 13% and 80% since 2020. The median household income in 2021 was \$56,395, higher than the city's median of \$34,762. And home renovations are increasingly common

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The Venice of Detroit

Continued from page 1

while housing prices are rising. Meanwhile, a redevelopment plan for the neighborhood calls for \$640 million in new investments – mostly new housing and retail. A streetscape renovation and several new businesses and developments have brightened up a stretch of Jefferson Ave. that hadn't seen much love in decades.

Still, Jefferson Chalmers remains among the city's lowest-income neighborhoods, with 39% of residents living below the poverty line, higher than the citywide average of 32%. And now, the forces of climate change threaten to make the area increasingly unaffordable for those low-income residents.

In 2021, the Federal Emergency Management Agency placed the neighborhood in a designated flood zone, requiring homeowners with federally insured mortgages to carry flood insurance. Only about 35% of units in the neighborhoods have mortgages. Those who do could pay thousands of dollars more yearly for flood insurance if they're federally insured. The designation has also paused some affordable housing developments in the neighborhood that rely on state and federal financing.

Meanwhile, the city of Detroit has signaled it will fine or litigate against those with defective or missing seawalls if they don't bring them into compliance. Seawalls can cost tens of thousands of dollars to replace or rehab. Residents see an existential threat from both the high costs and high water. These frustrations, coupled with climate change uncertainty, have left some questioning the neighborhood's future.

Plans to save a neighborhood

Getting the neighborhood out of the designated flood zone is a high priority for those who want to see redevelopment continue.

In 2022, city officials held a meeting to present a \$161 million U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plan that would have built berms along the riverfront, closed off the connection of two canals to the river, and installed a removable stop-log dam – a barrier to keep out high water – on the deepest channel connecting the canal system with the Detroit River. They planned to pay for it with federal funding.

But residents blocked the proposal, fearing it could disconnect the neighborhood from the river, destroying its character and leading to stagnant, bug-infested canals, where a Great Lakes Water Authority outfall also periodically dumps combined sewage and stormwater. Residents said there was a level of distrust that the city would effectively manage the stop-log dam, considering Detroit's history of financial problems and poor city services.

Following the rejection, the city said it would proceed with fining and litigating against the owners of 107 homes it determined to have missing or deficient seawalls.

But city spokesperson Georgette Johnson said the city will wait until it has repaired seawalls on 17 city-owned parcels before going after other property owners. They're targeting this fall for completion.

Several residents support another proposal spearheaded by resident Jay Juergensen, a Jefferson Chalmers resident and lead organizer for the Jefferson Chalmers Water Project community group. Along with large investments in regional stormwater infrastructure, the plan seeks \$40 million to create wetlands and levees on the Detroit River, make topographical changes, and fund seawalls on the canals. Juergensen estimates that the seawalls would cost around \$11 million. It's unclear if Juergensen's plan has found any official support. Without financial assistance and coordination, the process of hardening Jefferson Chalmers's shoreline will likely be lengthy and expensive – and may still fail to remove the neighborhood's floodplain designation.

FEMA [has said] that seawalls may be recognized as part of an effective flood mitigation plan. But Ken Hinterlong, senior engineer for FEMA, said any reevaluation would also need to ensure that there is adequate "interior drainage" in the neighborhood once levees and seawalls are built, something that could continue to be a challenge for an area that was previously a wetland and has experienced frequent sewer backups.

One shortcoming of FEMA's flood maps is that they're based on past data. Richard Rood, a climate scientist at the University of Michigan, said that the practice of using historical averages to calculate risk is no longer working. "How quickly things are changing is something that we don't appreciate," he said. "Right now, each 10-year period is exhibiting a statistically different climate than the previous 10-year period."

And while climatic extremes could produce both exceptionally wet and dry periods, Rood predicts the "next few decades are very wet." This aligns with data from the last few decades showing most of the eastern U.S. getting more precipitation as the West gets drier.

If enforcing seawall requirements proves unworkable, city and state leaders could ask FEMA for assistance in relocating residents away from the floodplain. Voluntary buyout programs as part of a "managed retreat" process for moving people away from areas likely to be impacted by climate-fueled disasters have reduced the flood risk for many in other regions.

But the FEMA buyout program has also been criticized for facilitating "white flight" on account of its tendency to move white residents away from racially diverse neighborhoods to majority-white areas. For now, Johnston said the city of Detroit is not considering asking for such a buyout.

"You can't put a price tag on this neighborhood," Grannum said. "You come here, you're still in the city, and it's quiet. You can experience nature, and it's on the water in the city of Detroit."

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All Things Considered

I want to go back to something I wrote a few weeks ago in this column concerning our ongoing efforts of improving the acoustics in our church building.

Sound technology continues to improve at a rapid pace and we are always “tweaking” our system. The facile solution for many is to keep on adding more powerful amplifiers and speakers. I always worry that following those technological suggestions would soon lead our sanctuary to resemble a rock concert stage. But even if we did, I think we would have audibility issues because users of the system are unwilling, incapable, or afraid of using the equipment as designed.

There is nothing more frustrating than working with a lector or cantor before a liturgy – getting them comfortable with projecting and hearing the sound of their own voice – only to have them “chicken out” when it comes to the actual ceremony. The opposite is also true – at least one overly assertive soloist at a funeral blew out a speaker.

I once was in a congregation in a parish in Los Angeles which had a heck of a good sound system – the celebrant and musicians used it to their advantage in their vintage Gothic church..

But when it came time for the first reading, the lector was inaudible. The frustrated celebrant walked over to the ambo and interrupted the reading and gave the lector a pep talk, telling him to “start again.” Everyone was embarrassed. And while I understand the celebrant’s frustration, I hope to never reach the point where I would correct another minister at the altar.

Good public orators know that a microphone is not your friend – it will not cover up your failings. There exists technology, however, that attempts

to do so using graphic equalizers. This stuff is used all the time in auditoriums, stage performances, recording studios and broadcasting. Essentially it is a human being who monitors everyone using the system and adjusts accordingly. We’ve had such an automatic equalizing system here for a decade, but it’s not smart enough to compensate for every situation.

When we began taping liturgies during the pandemic, we made further investments in achieving a sound balance. What began with a soundboard in the choir loft has now simplified itself to a laptop computer used by someone sitting in the congregation. This real-time, real-ears system helps a lot. But we utilize it only at one week-

✂✂✂

There is talk about a new variant of Covid and another round of vaccinations. We’re all weary of talk like this. But the truth is that the effects of the horrific pandemic linger still and will be with us for a long time.

Certainly there is the loss that we feel over the seven million souls who were lost to the virus. There are many others who still suffer long-term effects of having had the virus. There are still many socio-economic effects.

But I don’t know if we can even begin to quantify the effects that the pandemic has wrought on our psyche. Months and months of isolation from human interaction have left many of us suspicious of others — could this per-



**Last weekend's Block Party:
Rebuilding community one person at a time.**

end mass – the one that is televised. It’s available for use at the other masses, but needs a technician to operate it. I’ve asked for a couple of volunteers who would give their services in this regard. But that is not how things work these days. I’ve learned that if you want consistency, you’ve got to pay someone to do the job. We don’t offer much; but we do offer something. This would be a nice service for a young person for whom a few “shekels” could give them some savings or spending money. Steve Linne, who installed our system, is ready and willing to interview and train. Drop us an email or speak with Chuck Dropiewski or myself.

Before we start re-inventing the system, or adding more hardware, let’s see if this doesn’t mitigate a lot of our problem.

son be the one who passes the disease on to me? Our polarized political climate reflects a lot of this fear.

But the side effect of Covid that concerns me the most is the crippling of religious life and practices. I spent a good portion of my life’s energy taking a parish that was “questionably viable” and with a lot of help, turned it into a community that was reasonably happy, healthy and growing. That didn’t happen just by wishing it. It happened as a result of community worship that was solid and engaging. It happened with a buy-in from families in our educational programs. It happened with multiple events like Oysterfest and Lenten Dinners, just to mention a few.

A lot of all that disappeared quickly not only with the pandemic,

Continued on page 4....

All Things Considered

Continued from page three...

but also with the “water event of 2021” that sidelined our buildings for months – and in the case of the ARK, still does.

I also maintain that the timing of the Family of Parishes corporate changeover added more uncertainty to an already shaky situation. The timing was/is very wrong.

There is not a weekend that goes by when I don’t look out over the congregation and think about those whom we haven’t seen in many, many months. Could there have been something that I could have done to keep in better contact with them? Will they feel a loss for community and return? Or is this shrunken size the new normal?

In the absence of a new play-book, I revert to the one that rescued this parish from oblivion in the past and that is, engaging one person, one family at a time. Are you with me?

TRP



The 2023 CSA is in full swing. The Archdiocese of Detroit sent out a mailing with donor information and return envelopes. 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.

The Buzz

I still need your help. A month ago, on the last Sunday of July, I wrote here in the BUZZ that come the middle of September I am supposed to help lead a discussion with a group about the issue of “**Synodality**.” My working title at this point is “Synodality: So What?!”

Pope Francis’ hope for the Synod seems to be for a new way of being Church. How we think of one another as members, how we relate to people and religions outside of our own, and how we communicate – i.e. listen as well as speak – at every level and in every personal or group relationship . . . these seem to be some of the core aspects for Synodal consideration.

So, help me out. How do I engage a diverse group in conversation about these topics? Think as if you were there. How do you both think/judge, but also perceive/feel about the Catholic Church today? Think personal, family, parish, national, and global. What do you think the Church should be, what should it say, what should it be doing at those different levels? Again, if you were at this discussion meeting, what would you like to say about the Catholic Church? What would you like to hear about it from others?

I think in this process of preparing myself for a discussion, I’m beginning to get a feel for what Francis is trying to start by way of this Synod. The key word here is “start.” It’s all about a process, a style of being Church, which should continue to grow and develop and not look for a completion date. It makes me feel more and more strongly a need and desire to hear from and engage with others like you. Perhaps Francis also sees the irreplaceable value in expanding the discussion/communication with all who have been in touch with the Holy Spirit. And think about it: whom does this include? and who is not included? and why would you say so? Wow! It’s now even more obvious to me how much I need your help!



Speaking of Pope Francis . . . some 266 popes ago (give or take a few in our checkered history), there was a guy by the name of Simon, who was given a new name – Peter – by the leader of his gang. This weekend and next in our Sunday liturgies are two of the great passages about him that come from the 16th chapter of Matthew’s Gospel. Although the main point of the text is not about Peter, nor about his position and powers, I can’t help but see new depths in the exchanges between him and Jesus . . . and find some hilarious tidbits at the same time.

This weekend focuses on the identity of Jesus, which Simon bar Jonah voices correctly. The Lord then proclaims that it would be on this solid foundation (rock/petrus, Peter) that He would build His faith community (Church). Then there follows the verse about keys to the Kingdom as well as about power to “bind” and “loose”. We were all raised using this as a proof-text for the power and authority of the papacy. But read next week’s continuation of Chapter 16 to get a balanced, if not pointedly humorous insight into Peter.

Next Sunday, Jesus continues by foretelling what was awaiting Him as He advanced toward Jerusalem. The freshly named “Rocky” (translation ala Chuck) gets in His face and tells Him this is all wrong . . . common sense dictates something different should be planned. Jesus famously responds to our first pope by saying, “Get behind me, ____!” Now I don’t think we’re talking about demonic possession of the guy. The translation of the name Jesus called him is an important clue – satan means a divider, or as Christ continued: “You are an obstacle to me.”

With these stories about “Rocky,” I am drawn back to my long-lived enjoyment of Charles Schulz’s **Peanuts**, and hear in the words of the great philosophical psychologist, Lucille Van Pelt, another translation of Peter’s name. For in two of the three scenes from this portion of Matthew’s Gospel, Peter acts like a real “blockhead.”

I think all of us need the humility, but also the openness to learn from the many ways the Master teaches us, so that we can be a foundational rock for others rather than a blockhead. I think that’s what Pope Francis wants to do with the Synod and Synodality. And it’s why I need your help so that I may avoid being the hardest blockhead of all.

Chuck Dropiewski

The Venice of Detroit

Concluded from page 2

There are worries about the neighborhood's older residents getting pushed out due to expenses associated with flood insurance, seawalls, and cleaning up from floods and basement backups. They may be able to sell their homes for high prices, but Lee said that still won't offset the costs of moving and studies show the financial benefits of aging in place.

She added that her older neighbors could also lose a sense of community and means of finding support if needed. "People want to stay here," she said. "They raised their kids here; they know their neighbors...you need those types of connective tissues."

Meanwhile, another neighbor of Grannum, Marie de Beaufort, is questioning her decision to invest in the neighborhood. "The public will in our community is to have a beautiful neighborhood that enjoys this amenity of the water," she said. "But I don't know if the political will is there to address this systemically, and that's disappointing."

This is an excerpt of a six-part collaboration — "Inundated: Flooding and vulnerable communities in the Great Lakes region" — that includes the Institute for Nonprofit News, Borderless, Ensia, Grist, Planet Detroit, Sahar Journal and Wisconsin Watch, as well as the Guardian and Inside Climate News. The project was supported by the Joyce Foundation. View the full article and the other articles in the series <https://planetdetroit.org/deep-dive/inundated/>



Gianna House Foundation Pregnancy & Parenting Residence

Our focus in 2023 is to continue to provide our young ladies with avenues for independence and sustainability. We helped over twenty young, pregnant women and their babies in 2022 with shelter, education and care. In first quarter 2023, three young moms and infants have been launched to independence from Gianna House. We have also virtually maintained our community outreach programs for low-income families in the tri-county area.

We lost 80% of the community supplies and items that were stored in our basement during the flood. We humbly ask for your monetary donation to replenish our stronghold of these necessary items until the basement is sanitized. Lost in the basement flooding was formula, diapers, wipes, clothing and other much-needed items for daily living and care of underserved infants. Your cash donations today can help us to restock this bounty.

With an eye on the welfare of the young lives we serve, Gianna House remains optimistic. I hope you keep your faith in us by continuing to support the mission and vision of our founder, Sister Diane Masson. With God's grace, we strive to be the leading communitybased residence that offers the least of us a hand up — not a handout! As we persevere, thank you for your continued belief in our good work.

For more information about Gianna House or instruction for making a much needed donation, please visit Giannahouse.org or call 586-445-0440.

2	0	CSA
2	3	Box Scores
Number of Families 800		
Returns to date 132		
Average Gift in '23 \$574.00		
AoD Quota in '23 \$97,755		
Property/Liability Insurance ... \$57,600		
Adjusted parish target \$155,355		
Received as of 6/7/23 \$75,771		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

Liturgy Schedule

Monday, August 28

St. Augustine, bishop & doctor

Tuesday, August 29

The Passion of St. John the Baptist

Morning prayer - Communion Service

Wednesday, August 30

Weekday 21st week in Ordinary Time

Thursday, August 31

Weekday 21st week in Ordinary Time

7:00 p.m. - Bernard & Mary Segner

Friday, September 1

Weekday 21st week in Ordinary Time

12:00 p.m. - Mass - Ann Marie Dropiewski

Saturday, September 2

Weekday 21st week in Ordinary Time

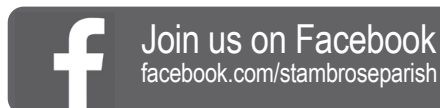
4:00 p.m. - Mass - For All People

Sunday, September 3

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 - Mass - For All People

11:15 - Mass - For All People



Scriptures for the 21st week in Ordinary Time

August 28

1 Thes 1: 1-5, 8b-10

Ps 149: 1-6, 9

Mt 23: 13-22

August 29

1 Thes 2: 1-8

Ps 139: 1-6

Mk 6: 17-32

August 30

2 Thes 2: 9-13

Ps 139: 7-12b

Mt 23: 27-32

August 31

1 Thes 3: 7-13

Ps 90: 3-5, 12-14, 17

Mt 24: 42-51

September 1

1 Thes 4: 1-8

Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 10-12

Mt 25: 1-13

September 2

1 Thes 4: 9-11

Ps 98: 1, 7-9

Mt 25: 14-30

September 3

Jer 20: 7-9

Ps 63: 2-6, 8-9

Rom 12: 1-2

Mt 16: 21-27

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 26th & 27th

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

Entrance: Enter The Journey #468

or Here At This Table #308

Psalm 27: This Alone #404

Preparatory: If God Is For Us #620

or You Have Called US #649 or Here At This Table #308

Communion: The Summons #387

Recessional: The Church's One Foundation #423



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, August 20, 2023

in envelopes we received \$3,511.00

in the loose collection..... \$1,483.00

in electronic donations..... \$3,596.65

for a total of \$8,590.65

Under budget for the week..... \$1,509.35

Number of envelopes mailed 621

Number of envelopes used 52



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, Kevin O'Connor, and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with Covid.

Our Dead

Long-time parishioner, **Carol Craig Schaap**, 85, passed on Aug. 4th. She graduated from St. Mary's Commercial High School in 1955. It was there she developed her love for learning and demonstrated her innate ability to organize and motivate others.

Her career began as a secretary for the FBI, and then Parke Davis, before she found her true home as part of Wayne State University. There, she served first as secretary to the chairman of the chemistry department and then as secretary to the president of the university. During her time at Wayne she met the love of her life, Professor Paul Schaap. They were married in 1976.

Carol's passions extended beyond her work and family. Carol was a philanthropist at heart and, with her husband, dedicated significant efforts toward this parish, scholarships, community centers and a performing arts center now under construction, making a lasting impact on countless lives.

The A. Paul and Carol C. Schaap Foundation through the Foundation for Detroit's Future (The Grand Bargain) played a significant role in saving the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Carol is survived by her husband, Paul. Her sisters, Gwen Glass and Elaine Geshel, both predeceased her. She was aunt to Greg Geshel, Jessica Glick, Jamie Geshel, Darrin Schaap, Danielle Andress, Darcy Baker and Sena Brown. Her funeral Mass was held on Aug. 26th at St. Paul on the Lake.



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