

## **St. Peter Claver Catholic Church**

St. Peter Claver Catholic Church is an intentional Catholic Community where a building does not define the parish. We are chosen to be sent, in faith, in hope and in love, because we believe God first chose us to become St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, a parish with 40,000 parishioners. Our pastor, Fr. John Phelps, C.Ss.R. brings Hope and Challenges us everyday as we live out the meaning of #iamchosentobesent.

Our history began November 27, 2005, when the people of two parishes - St. Francis de Sales and Precious Blood - agreed to merge. During a two-day retreat in August of that year, it was jointly decided to name this new parish for St. Peter Claver, a Spanish-born Jesuit who ministered to the slave population of Columbia during the 17th century. He witnesses to what it means to be Roman Catholic in a society filled with poor and powerless people, where injustice is common and hope can seem fleeting.

Fr. James O'Reilly, SJ became the pastor, while Deacon Wyatt Jones became pastoral administrator of the parish. Both Fr. O'Reilly and Deacon Jones were also deeply involved with Loyola High School, a Jesuit High School for boys. The Parish's first years were filled with joys as well as challenges. But all of us remained united in love for our Lord Jesus Christ, with a deep desire to grow closer to Him and serve Him with how we live. The Jesuit motto, "For the Greater Glory of God," became ours too.

Fr. John became our pastor November 27, 2016, although he had been with us for over a year spearheading, with Sr. Rosalie Esquerra, OP, an evangelization effort in our parish. The last three years have seen that effort grow into unique and beautiful tiny plants sprouting. Although some have not weathered the storms, they have certainly gifted us with an ever renewing spirit of joy and hope.

Our parish functions through a servant leader model under the guidance of our pastor's servant-leadership, renewed through the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus and developed through Mary's way. This model includes:

### **The Mission**

To empower the "four faces" of the parish to be proactive in building toward justice and peace for the sake of the next generation.

### **Our Parish Pastoral Council**

To consult with the pastor in guiding the parish.

### **Our New Evangelization Mission Team**

To develop our members to carry out the tasks of the Mission Statement and invite others to a deeper faith in Christ and an acceptance of His call to be His Apostles in this parish.

### **Our Elders' Counsel**

To bring their two-fold gifts of wisdom and common sense. To position the Pastor of 40,000 parishioners to be responsible and balanced, he wants a partnership to reflect upon the experience of the faith journey for the entire 7 1/2 square mile area.

On January 2, 2018, our church/gathering space building, at the former St. Francis de Sales site, collapsed, beginning a new chapter in our parish history. We became a mission church, without a permanent home. By the grace of God, we have found refuge here at Marygrove College for our worship, at the former Precious Blood Rectory, now owned by the New Common School Foundation, for our offices, and at Mt. Lebanon-Strathmoor Church for our St. Vincent de Paul Outreach Ministry. Also, we have an agreement with Loyola High School, and with the support of the Archdiocese, for the future rebuild of our church, gathering space, and offices. Today, we honor these partners-in-mission, as well as the alumni of St. Peter Claver and its predecessor parishes, Precious Blood and St. Francis de Sales.