



**Protect Yourself from Defilement – Be a Doer of the Word!**

**Reflection from Fr. John Phelps, C.Ss.R.**

**August 29, 2021 - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Deuteronomy 4:1-8 & Mark 7:1-23 with James 1:17-27**

Protect ourselves from the virus. Of course all of us have heard the warnings about the Pandemic and the surge of “variants.” What a message for us as we head into Labor Day 2021 – the “unofficial” end of Summer Festivals.

James, the first Apostle to be martyred in year 42, had been chosen by Jesus to accompany Him to the raising from the dead of Jarius’ daughter. James was also on the mountain top for the Transfiguration of Jesus along with Peter and his brother John.

“Be doers of the Word not hearers only.” James talks about the truth as the seed of the Word planted in us that has the power to save, if we keep it “undefiled,” if we “keep it unstained by the world.” What’s that mean?

He goes on to explain. “Care for the orphans and widows.” Put in his context where followers of the Way, the Truth, and the Life were being martyred left and right, there were lots of orphans and widows.

What does this mean to us? Listen to Jesus explain what it means to be defiled. We have been given our ole’ time Religion with our spiritual home centered on the Body and Blood of Jesus. We can nurture and heal, encourage and show the Way.

“The things that come out from within are what defile ... from within people, from their hearts.” Jesus goes on to give examples of fallen human nature’s way of defiling one another. And much of what we do is following human tradition.

Self-interest is where we all begin – self-preservation. Left to itself, we can destroy the planet with pollution, the future of our children with greed, marriage and family life with violent communication, just to name a few.

To protect against such defilement is the grace given to us through Mary to have the power to be “doers of the Word.” For those we know who are caught up in the “mess”, it’s not too late to give them the “message” of hope for the common good.

Let’s be messengers wise enough to keep ourselves undefiled by doing it!

**2021 Catholic Services Appeal!**

Our 2021 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) campaign has begun. **Our target this year is \$7,637.** As is our parish tradition, the amount over target, which the AOD refunds to the parish, will be shared 50/50 with our St. Vincent de Paul ministry.

Solicitation packets are available in the rear of the church, or by contacting the Parish Office. **There are three ways to make your pledge: 1. Return your pledge card directly to the Archdiocese in the envelope provided, 2. Drop your pledge card in our weekly collection bowl, 3. Pledge online through the parish website. Choose whichever way works best for you!**

We have designated Sunday, September 26, as “**Commitment Sunday**,” when parishioners will be asked to finalize their pledge to CSA. However, we suggest you make your commitment earlier, if possible. Please prayerfully consider your commitment to CSA.

**Adult and Youth Choirs**

We have been blessed with our new Music Minister, Christopher Kendall, whose background is in voice and choir. He is seeking to expand our Adult Choir, as well as to start a Youth Choir. If you, or someone you know, has a potential interest in joining this opportunity to praise our Lord in song, please contact Chris at (248) 497-9196.

**Maintaining COVID Precautions**

Recent developments in the fight against COVID have necessitated a reevaluation of precautions during celebration of the Eucharist. Accordingly, the Archdiocese has recommended that parishes encourage masking and social distancing, regardless of vaccination status. We request that all attendees, out of Christian love and respect for one another, follow these guidelines and any other posted instructions. Note that the Archdiocese has not changed its guidance on Mass attendance - only those who are sick, homebound, or at serious risk from COVID are dispensed from the obligation to attend.

**Upcoming Meetings**

After a brief summer pause, we begin a return to our normal meeting schedule as we prepare to join our Family of Parishes on July 1, 2022. This week, the Formation Team meets on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m., and the Pastoral Team meets on Thursday at 6:30 p.m., both via Zoom. Check the live calendar on the website for other other Team and Commission meetings.

**Our Mission Statement**

Having reflected on the "four faces of our parish," **St. Peter Claver Catholic Community**, chosen by the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, and under the guidance of Mary, resolves that: 1) we will provide more opportunities for deepening prayer life and faith life for youth, young adults, and adults; 2) we will initiate efforts to reach out and re-connect with those individuals and families who have disconnected from the Church; 3) we will collaborate with other faith communities and organizations within our parish to offer ecumenical events/activities (e.g., neighborhood clean-ups, prayer meetings, health fairs); and, 4) we will utilize resources within our parish community to advocate for education and to promote social justice issues.

## Ministers Schedule

September 5, 2021

**Celebrant: Rev. John Phelps, C.Ss.R.**  
**Minister of Service: Pearl Crutcher**  
**Lector: Kathryn Crutcher**



**BECOME THE FIRE**  
Prayer Gathering  
Friday September 10  
7:00-9:00pm

with special guest  
**Kate Baumer**

*Become the fire*  
PRAYER GATHERING

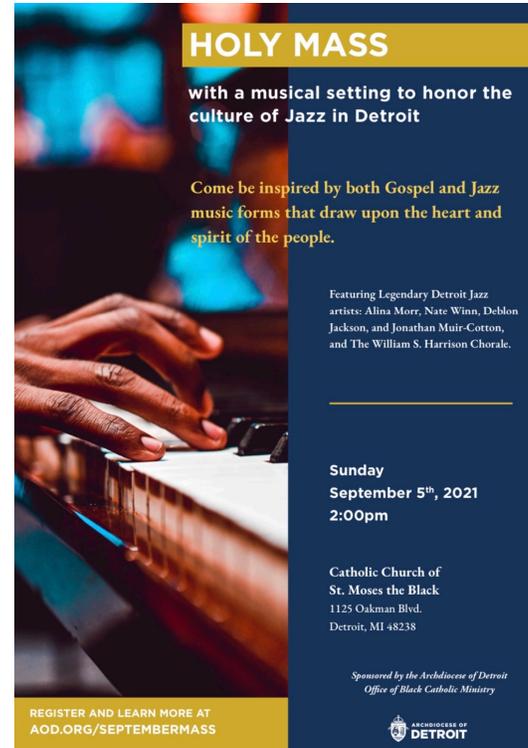
Praise & Worship | Fellowship | Prayer Ministry

St. Scholastica  
8201 W. Outer Drive  
Detroit, MI 48219

## Meetings/Events This Week

Sunday 10:00 am Mass in Church and via Zoom  
Monday 9:30 am Staff Meeting at PH  
Tuesday 10:00 am St. Vincent de Paul at Mt. Lebanon  
7:00 pm Formation Team via Zoom  
Wednesday 11:00 am Lectio Divina via Zoom  
Thursday 6:30 pm Pastoral Team via Zoom  
Sunday 10:00 am Mass in Church and via Zoom

Legend: PH=Parish House; MC=Marygrove College  
Church refers to the Sacred Heart Chapel at Marygrove College  
**For the "live" Parish Calendar, go to [spcccdetroit.org](http://spcccdetroit.org)**



**HOLY MASS**

with a musical setting to honor the culture of Jazz in Detroit

Come be inspired by both Gospel and Jazz music forms that draw upon the heart and spirit of the people.

Featuring Legendary Detroit Jazz artists: Alina Morr, Nate Winn, Deblon Jackson, and Jonathan Muir-Cotton, and The William S. Harrison Choral.

Sunday  
September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
2:00pm

Catholic Church of  
St. Moses the Black  
1125 Oakman Blvd.  
Detroit, MI 48238

REGISTER AND LEARN MORE AT  
[AOD.ORG/SEPTEMBERMASS](http://AOD.ORG/SEPTEMBERMASS)

## Sacramental Preparation

Are you, or someone you know, interested in joining the Catholic Church or receiving one of the sacraments? Please contact Jennie Sinatra at the Parish Office.

**Thank You for Your Financial Support!**

Give Online at [spcccdetroit.org](http://spcccdetroit.org)

## Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Intercessory Prayer Team

Beverly Alessio, Inez (Retinella) Alls, Florine Anderson, Alberta Asmar, Sylvia Baker, Warren Bridges, Donald & Barbara Carter, Michael Clarence Carter, Johnnie Davis, Peggy Endlein, Ara Grier, Sandra Griffin, Karen Hickman, Myrtis Hildebrandt, Jacqueline Johnson, Bobbie Lewis, Addison Martin, Augusta Martin, Dorothy (Vicki) Martin, Charles Nelson, Joan S. Noland, Nancy Oberhausen, Grady & Celestine Parker, Fred & Villa Ray, Romaine Redd, Flossie Ryles, Jeanne Schuldt, Irene Scott, Gussie Seay, Augusta Starks, Mary Tyler, Christine Versele, Helen Wajda, Anna Washington, Lillie Washington, Carmel Weems, Leonard & Ona Wilson

## Also, Please Remember in Prayer:

Wayne Bradley, Olivia Boulden, Christopher Durant, Rochelle Evans, Kiara Harris, Marley Jonah, Mary Caroline Jonah, Johnetta Mutes, Elke Rittenhouse, Elaine Ryles, Terrence Tidwell, Charles Tilghman, Jon Viado, Vickee Viado, Constance Washington-Daniel, Larry Washington, and relatives of our parishioners

## St. Peter Claver Catholic Community

Parish Office: 13305 Grove St., Detroit, MI 48235  
(313) 342-5292

Church: Marygrove College - Sacred Heart Chapel  
8425 W. McNichols Rd., Detroit, MI 48221

email: [parishoffice@spcccdetroit.org](mailto:parishoffice@spcccdetroit.org)

website: [www.spcccdetroit.org](http://www.spcccdetroit.org)

**Mass: Every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Church**  
(Check the bulletin for holy days and special services)

**Reconciliation: Before Mass or By Appointment**

**Parish Office Hours: Parish Staff is currently working from home. Please contact Ed Shea if you require assistance.**

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## Reverend John Phelps, C.Ss.R., Pastor

Edward Shea, Administrative Manager/Bulletin Editor  
Cell: (248) 633-4476

Jennie Sinatra, Formation Director

Stephanie Flounory, Youth & Young Adult Minister

Christopher Kendall, Music Minister

Tanda Flounory, Parish Pastoral Council Chair

LaTanya Mahdi, Finance Council Chair