

**Those Who Have Will be Given More!**

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

**November 15, 2020 - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Proverbs 31:10-31 & Matthew 25:14-30 with 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6**

Live like Jesus is coming like a thief in the night and we won't let "peace and security" deceive us. St. Paul is teaching the Confirmed a clear message of hope. We are chosen to be "children of light," "children of the day!"

We have seen a momentum of mission maturing before us. The spark was this time four years ago. The Archbishop started "Synod '16." This led to "Unleash the Gospel." I was yet to be installed as your pastor. That came as Advent began in 2016.

Advent will begin this year with the Archbishop starting "Families of Parishes." We will be part of a "family," as few as three or as many as eight. The discerning process, the way to find what the Holy Spirit's decision is, will be based on talents!

The message today in the Word of Life centers on talents. Each person has talents - few or many doesn't matter. What matters is that they multiply. In the first reading the author of Proverbs gave us our example - a wife which is an invaluable pearl - a jewel.

Christ is the "husband" of the Church and we are the "wife" according to St. Paul in Ephesians 5:32. Our common gift to be faithful is to develop the "fear of the Lord." Let's embrace the profound meaning of "fear of the Lord" and all other fears matter not.

Talents are what we have to produce for others what was entrusted to us. Let me explain. How do talents double? It's how love multiplies. We give to another what we ourselves have received. When we give our talents away, they double!

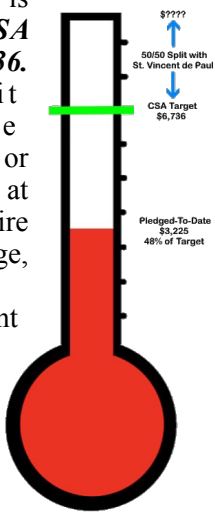
To fear the Lord is to deepen our Confirmed Commitment to Christ. F.E.A.R. is to know Freedom that Excels by Advancing Redemptive love. Fallen human nature knows F.E.A.R. as False Expectations Appearing Real. Anyone birthing a child gives life hope!

Do you know why the person didn't share his talent? Out of fear of the Master! May we be Children of Light to share our talents. May we be Children of Day to support each other to know our talents and to double them. May the birth of a child witness of "doubling human life." May baptizing a child witness to "doubling Redemptive love."

**2020 Catholic Services Appeal**

The 2020 CSA Campaign is underway. ***This year's CSA target for our parish is \$6,736.*** All are invited to visit [www.AOD.org](http://www.AOD.org) for more information about the CSA, or you can make a donation at [www.givecsa.org](http://www.givecsa.org). If you require assistance in making a pledge, please contact Ed Shea.

To date, our total amount pledged remains at \$3,225, or 48% of our target. Remember, any amounts received over the target are returned to the parish, and will be shared 50/50 with our St. Vincent de Paul ministry.



**4th Annual Harvest Talent Festival**

Come and join us as Leaders In Motion and Leaders On Mission present the **4th Annual Harvest Talent Festival!** This year, the event will be held virtually on YouTube on November 28 at 1:00 p.m.

For more information, including how to "virtually audition," go to our website, or contact Stephanie Flounory at [s.flo629@gmail.com](mailto:s.flo629@gmail.com).

**Congratulations!**

With great joy, today, we witness the baptism of two Catholic Christians - Ah'moni Pace, daughter of Anita Pace, and Nasir Ricardo Hollis, son of Anita's other daughter, Arianna Pace Hollis. In addition, Arianna will enter full communion with the Church through the sacrament of Confirmation. Congratulations to all and to the proud grandmother/great-grandmother, Patricia Woods.

**Advent 2020: Bible Study on Purpose via Zoom**

During the 4 weeks of Advent, Fr. John and Jennie Sinatra will present a new Bible study, ***Seek the Gift of Jesus! Healing the Racial Divide.*** See our website for details, or contact Jennie Sinatra.

**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.



*Congratulations to the seven women who completed the 16-week **Women Bridging Change** program and to the two program facilitators. Pictured above with Fr. John are (from left to right) Leslie Sykes (facilitator), Annette Howard (facilitator), Patricia Woods, Gwen Cook, Aurelia Smith, Clarisa Piecuch (St. Augustine & St. Monica Parish), Tanda Flounory, Jennie Sinatra, and Pat Shea.*

### **Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan**

Please consider contributing to the annual parish collection supporting the critical work of Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan, taking place the weekend of November 21 – 22. You can positively impact the lives of thousands of people served by Catholic Charities right here in our own backyard throughout the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Each year Catholic Charities helps more than 20,000 people combat poverty and crisis to move toward a better life.

Special collection envelopes are available at the parish or donate online at [ccsem.org](http://ccsem.org)

### **Ashe – Our Great Gifts Retreat**

The Archdiocese of Detroit's Office of Black Catholic Ministry invites all to a one-hour retreat - a diocesan-wide celebration of Black Catholic History Month - on November 24 from 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Learn more and register at [www.aod.org/events/559](http://www.aod.org/events/559).

### ***Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Intercessory Prayer Team***

Beverly Alessio, Inez (Retinella) Alls, Florine Anderson, Alberta Asmar, Sylvia Baker, Warren & Marcella Bridges, Donald & Barbara Carter, Michael Clarence Carter, Johnnie Davis, Peggy Endlein, Ron Gallese, 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

***Please Pray for Them as They Pray for Us!!***

### ***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, Vickie Viado, Constance Washington-Daniel, Larry Washington, and relatives of our parishioners

### **Ministers Schedule November 22, 2020**

**Celebrant: Rev. John Phelps, C.Ss.R.**  
**Minister of Service: Mary Caroline Jonah**  
**Lector: Alther Redd**  
**Cantor: Aurelia Smith**

### **Meetings/Events This Week**

Sunday	10:00 am	Mass in Church and via Zoom
Tuesday	9:00 am	Staff Meeting via Zoom
	10:00 am	St. Vincent de Paul at Mt. Lebanon
Wednesday	1:00 pm	Lectio Divina Prayer via Zoom
Sunday	10:00 am	Mass in Church and via Zoom
	2:00 pm	Knights of Peter Claver

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)**

***If, due to health or COVID concerns, you cannot attend Mass on Sunday, but would like to have someone bring you Eucharist, please contact Jennie Sinatra or Ed Shea, and we will work with you to make arrangements.***

### **Collection Results**

**We continue to rely on your support. If you are unable to join us on Sunday at Marygrove, you can send your weekly donation to the Parish Office. Or you may want to consider online giving. It's convenient, secure, and totally in your control!**

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

### ***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***

***Ronald Gallese, Facilities Manager***

***Tanda Flounory, Parish Pastoral Council Chair***

***LaTanya Mahdi, Finance Council Chair***



November 13, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During these difficult months during the pandemic, I have granted a general dispensation from the grave obligation that we as Catholic Christians have to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation in the Archdiocese of Detroit, in part to help ease the conscience of those who are unable to be present for public worship due to risk of illness to themselves or their families. The most recent dispensation expires on November 22, at which point we had hoped the pandemic would have eased enough to allow all of us to return in an unrestricted way to our celebrations of the Holy Eucharist.

Unfortunately, local and state health officials report that we not only continue to experience an increase in cases in our region and elsewhere, but that the rate of increase is rising dramatically and dangerously. I have been in communication with leaders in our Catholic hospitals and they are very concerned about the immediate future and the challenges they face caring for all those in need, not just those experiencing serious complications from COVID.

### **Dispensation**

After carefully considering these and other factors, I am extending the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation for people living in or visiting the Archdiocese of Detroit until Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021. As we have from the beginning, we will continue to closely monitor the situation in our region, with an eye on the day – hopefully in the not-too-distant future – when all of us are able to safely reunite in our normal patterns of worship.

### **Attending Mass**

This extension is given so as not to unduly bind the consciences of those who are greatly troubled by the destructive potency of the coronavirus, and to care for the most vulnerable among us, such as the elderly. At the same time, one should not take advantage of the dispensation without a true need. Catholics who have already begun to engage in non-essential activities, such as widening one's social circle or going out to eat, should return to Sunday Mass – an essential activity – as church capacity allows. Our souls greatly need the grace that comes from the representation of Christ's saving death and resurrection and this is what Jesus has entrusted to us in the celebration of the Mass. Just as businesses, schools, and other locations have opened safely, so have our parishes. Our pastors, parishes, and the faithful have worked diligently and adapted well in order to ensure the health and well-being of everyone who has been able to come to church for Mass, Confession, or to pray. I want to offer my sincere gratitude for the efforts that have been undertaken to implement and maintain the first-rate precautionary measures that have kept our parishes and schools safe.

### **Keeping Holy the Lord's Day**

Whether or not they are able to attend Mass, all baptized Catholics are reminded of the grave necessity they have to keep holy the Lord's Day. This a divine law that neither I nor anyone else can ever dispense. Sunday is the day of the Resurrection of our Lord, and as such Christians from the earliest days have set it apart as a day unlike others. When it is not possible to participate in person in the Sacrifice of the Mass, it is vitally important for every member of the Catholic Church to observe the Sabbath by prioritizing prayer, time for God and for family, and works of charity. To that end, many of our parishes have been broadcasting their services over the internet during these last several months. While this virtual means of watching Mass can never replace the unmediated contact with the Real Presence of Our Lord we receive by being present and participating in Mass, these livestreamed Masses have been a way to help Catholics nourish their souls when they cannot be present for Mass.

Let us trust that the Lord accompanies us through all difficulties, including this pandemic. As we approach Advent and prepare for flu season, we should remember to pray daily for health care workers, first responders, including our priests, and all who are and will offer compassionate service and healing in the months to come. Let us also continue to invoke Our Lady of Lourdes, patroness for those who suffer illness, asking her to pray with us for healing and protection for the people of southeast Michigan and beyond.

With assurances of my prayers for you, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron*

Archbishop of Detroit





# BEHOLD THY MOTHER

Getting to Know the Blessed  
Virgin Mary

*A free online Advent retreat experience  
for the lay faithful guided by Sacred Heart  
Major Seminary faculty and open to all.  
Learn at your own pace and from the  
comfort of your home.*

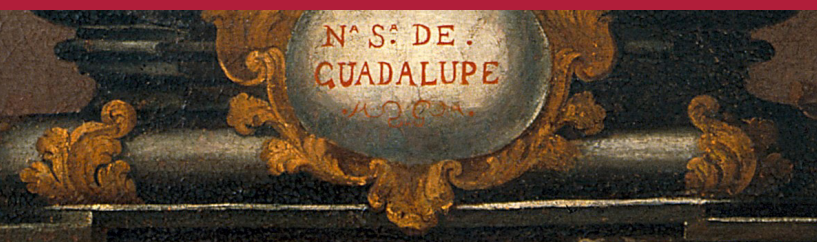
**"THEN JESUS SAID TO THE DISCIPLE,  
'BEHOLD, YOUR MOTHER!'"**

JOHN 19:27

**Sacred Heart professor Dr. Robert Fastiggi** will offer reflections on the beautiful teachings of our Catholic faith about Mary: her role as Mother of God, her Perpetual Virginity, her Immaculate Conception, and her Assumption into Heaven. But Mary is not just a figure of the past. Sacred Heart faculty will also introduce us to Mary's "apparitions" to people living in very different times and places.

**Join us this Advent** as we rediscover the gift of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and her role in our lives and in the Church.

LEARN MORE & REGISTER AT **SHMS.EDU/MARY**



SACRED HEART  
MAJOR SEMINARY