

**Mary Is The Mentor of Mercy And Peacefully So!**  
**Reflection from Fr. John Phelps, C.Ss.R.**  
**December 6, 2020 - 2nd Sunday of Advent**  
**Isaiah 40:1-11 & Mark 1:1-8 with 2 Peter 3:8-14**

He doesn't delay – a thousand years are like a day and a day is like a thousand years. Why does Peter's followers teach this truth? Because Jesus wants all of us to be transformed from sinners into saints, eager to be holy and devoted to peacemaking.

The message ringing through the words of Isaiah and John call us to prepare the way of the Lord. We are to remove all barriers and make for a smooth highway (with no potholes, to use a modern day analogy!) And we are to do so tenderly!

Mary's beginning is celebrated this coming Tuesday. She is conceived without sin. She will be like us in all things but sin. It's been thousands of years since Eve and Adam let go of depending on God. But in a sense, if Mary says "yes," it's like a day!

Mary may not have been the first woman so conceived. Obviously Eve was free from sin, as was Adam. It was their response that stopped "Emmanuel" from being born. It was their free will that led to Cain who killed Abel. Eve may not have been the only.

Yes, Mary was free to respond. And God will wait. We may think Mary had to do so, since her vocation was formed in the womb. But is Mary like us in all things? Is Mary free to say "no" to God's proposal for the Holy Spirit to enter her to be His Mother?

Are we free to say "yes" or "no?" Is the message of Jesus' cousin, John, meant for us? When Mary visited her cousin and John leapt for joy in Elizabeth's womb, was he not freed from the Fall and given grace to preach what touched him – Change!

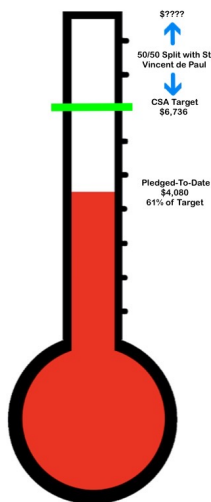
Take that awareness, the awareness of grace that waits to be accepted, and you will gain an insight into "God's Time," "God's Moment," "God's Day," "God's Eternity Now!" Be aware of the Body and Blood of Jesus in Bread and Wine – timeless waiting.

We are chosen to respond to God's call to be Catholic Christian. We are chosen from conception to be like all others except continuing in sin. We are meant to heal the wounds of division, overcome the barriers by building bridges. And the Word-Made-Flesh is waiting for us to confess our "no" and say "yes" to being sent to serve. Will we?

**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 is \$4,080, or 61% 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.



**Sunday Mass**

In compliance with state COVID-related restrictions, our landlord, the Marygrove Conservancy, has suspended all events on campus, including our public Masses until December 9. Accordingly, Fr. John will be celebrating Mass virtually at regularly scheduled times at [spcccdetroit.org](http://spcccdetroit.org).

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

During the 4 weeks of Advent, Fr. John and Jennie Sinatra are offering a new Bible study, ***Seek the Gift of Jesus! Healing the Racial Divide.*** The second week sessions will be on Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. and on Friday at 6:30 p.m. The Wednesday session will be preceded by Mass at 12:15 p.m. For more information, or to join, just go to our website.

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

Tuesday is the feast of the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation. Father John will celebrate Mass, via Zoom beginning at 6:30 p.m.

**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.

## Happy Anniversary, St. Peter Claver!!

This year marks our 15th anniversary as the parish of St. Peter Claver Catholic Community. Let's celebrate by sharing what has been most encouraging and most challenging thus far for us as a parish. We also want to honor and recognize our Eternal Prayer Team who sustain us with their intercessory prayers in Heaven. We will be celebrating by making a collage highlighting 15 years as a parish. Check out the parish website for more information and to submit your photos and memories by Sunday, December 6.

### 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.

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.

Learn more and register at [shms.edu/mary](http://shms.edu/mary).



St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat Center

## Advent Day of Reflection

Wednesday, December 16  
9:30 am - 3:00 pm  
\$50 per person

REFLECTIVE TALKS  
RECONCILIATION • CONVERSATION  
MASS • HOT LUNCH

register online at [stpaulretreat.org](http://stpaulretreat.org)

### 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 Gallesero, 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, Vickee Viado, Constance Washington-Daniel, Larry Washington, and relatives of our parishioners

## Ministers Schedule December 13, 2020

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

### Meetings/Events This Week

Sunday	10:00 am	Mass via Zoom
Monday	7:00 pm	Stewardship Commission via Zoom
Tuesday	10:00 am	St. Vincent de Paul at Mt. Lebanon
	6:30 pm	Mass via Zoom
Wednesday	12:15 pm	Mass via Zoom
	1:00 pm	Bible Study on Purpose via Zoom
Thursday	9:00 am	Staff Meeting via Zoom
	1:30 pm	Worship Team Meeting via Zoom
Friday	6:30 pm	Bible Study on Purpose via Zoom
Saturday	2:00 pm	Ladies of Peter Claver
Sunday	10:00 am	Mass 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)**

### 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.

### Collection Results

**We continue to rely on your support. Please 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 Gallesero, Facilities Manager

Tanda Flounory, Parish Pastoral Council Chair

LaTanya Mahdi, Finance Council Chair