



Put Our Hope In God Who Settles Us - Remember God Never Settles Down
Reflection from Fr. John Phelps, C.Ss.R.
December 20, 2020 - 4th Sunday of Advent
2 Samuel 7:1-16 & Luke 1:26-38 with Romans 16:25-27

Hope is the “not yet”. Hope will never be “has been.” Once all is eternal, then hope will be no more. Faith will have completed its mission. Love alone will remain. Let this message seep into our soul and everlasting joy will be the center of our hope now!

The message that I hear from the Hebrew Scriptures from Nathan having second thoughts about David building God a home and the Christian Scriptures from Mary’s yes to the Word becoming flesh within her is – God decides to settle us but not forever here.

God is about all of creation coming to life, when all we have passes. The symbol of the “House of God” is a tent that can easily be moved not brick and mortar. Mary is the temple of the Holy Spirit. She is to bring our boy child to birth. He’ll never settle.

St. Paul shares where we gain our strength to hope. He points to three sources. First, the Gospel that proclaims Jesus, who died, is Christ, who rose. Second, revealed mystery happens through seven sacraments. Third, the obedient make it happen.

First, the Gospel is about calling us to live, now not us, but Christ to live in us. As Mary conceives the Son of God, we receive the Body of Christ. We are called to follow the vocation of Mary. We are to say “Let it be done to me according to your Word.”

Second, the mystery of redemptive love is initiated as Baptism and Confirmation leads to Eucharist. We are to reveal the timeless truth of Jesus who transforms marriage and heals the chosen through forgiving us when we fall and anointing us when weak.

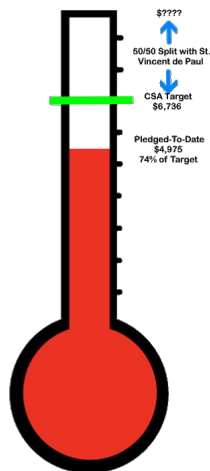
Third, the obedience of faith gives us the path to walk. God is commanding us to do whatever he tells us, as Mary told the waiters at the wedding feast. We don’t know it has to be this way. Our ways are good but God’s Way is excellent. In fact, God makes the impossible, people like us, to be His Ambassadors of Hope. Are we ready to let go?

The message of hope is to let God settle us down. Be calm – don’t panic. Be thankful – don’t worry. As the vaccine weaves its way to all God’s people, let’s stay humble. We know a God who’s fashioning the next miracle. He never settles down.

2020 Catholic Services Appeal

The 2020 CSA Campaign continues. All are invited to visit www.AOD.org for more information about the CSA, or you can make a donation at www.givecsa.org. If you require assistance in making a pledge, please contact Ed Shea.

To date, our total amount pledged is \$4,975, or 74% 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.



Holiday Mass Schedule

We are grateful to be able to celebrate the holiday in the Sacred Heart Chapel at Marygrove College. For those who for health reasons/concerns cannot join in public celebration, we continue to livestream all Masses on the parish website. Besides our regular 10:00 a.m Sunday Masses, the holiday Mass schedule is as follows:

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|-----------------|---------------------|------------|
| December 24 | Christmas Eve | 8:00 p.m. |
| December 25 | Christmas Day | 10:00 a.m. |
| January 1, 2021 | Mary, Mother of God | 10:00 a.m. |

Blessed Christmas to You and Your Loved Ones!!

Advent 2020: Bible Study on Purpose via Zoom

Sessions for the final week of our Bible Study on Purpose will be on Monday at 6:30 p.m. and on Tuesday at 1:00 p.m. The Tuesday session will be preceded by Mass at 12:15 p.m. For more information, or to join, just go to the parish website.

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.

Families of Parishes!

This week, Archbishop Vigneron announced the rollout plans for the new Families of Parishes. For more information about Families of Parishes and to view the complete plan, go to familiesofparishes.org.

Beginning in July 2022, St. Peter Claver will be in a family with 6 other parishes:

- Christ the King, Detroit
- Gesu, Detroit
- SS. Peter and Paul (Jesuit), Detroit
- St. Charles Lwanga, Detroit
- St. Moses the Black, Detroit
- St Suzanne/Our Lady Gate of Heaven, Detroit

Stay-At-Home States Tea

You should have received a mailing for St. Peter Claver's first "Stay-At-Home States Tea." This is a "virtual" States Tea that will run through February 2021. Please consider supporting this fundraising initiative as we seek new ways to support the ongoing mission of the parish during the pandemic. You can mail in your donation, or donate online at spcccdetroit.org.

"Discovering Your Gifts" Workshop

Beginning on Monday, January 25, and for the 4 consecutive Mondays afterwards, we will host the "Discovering Your Gifts" Workshop via Zoom. This is an opportunity for each of us, and for the parish, to identify the gifts and talents that we have to give to others as we advance the mission of St. Peter Claver. Each week's session will run for 90 minutes, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The cost, including the workbook, is only \$20. As we celebrate 15 years as a parish, let's prepare for the future by identifying our true treasury - the time and talent of those chosen to be sent to others.

For more information, or to sign up for the workshop, go to the parish website, or contact the parish office.

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

Celebrant: Rev. John Phelps, C.Ss.R.

December 24, 2020

Minister of Service: Pearl Crutcher

Lector: Sandra Horn

December 25, 2020

Minister of Service: Mary Caroline Jonah

Lector: Pearl Crutcher

December 27, 2020

Minister of Service: Sandra Horn

Lector: Mary Caroline Jonah

Meetings/Events This Week

| | | |
|-----------|----------|------------------------------------|
| Sunday | 10:00 am | Mass in Church and via Zoom |
| Monday | 6:30 pm | Bible Study on Purpose via Zoom |
| Tuesday | 10:00 am | St. Vincent de Paul at Mt. Lebanon |
| | 12:15 pm | Mass via Zoom |
| | 1:00 pm | Bible Study on Purpose via Zoom |
| | 7:00 pm | Vicariate Meeting via Zoom |
| Wednesday | 1:00 pm | Lectio Divina via Zoom |
| Thursday | 8:00 pm | Mass in Church and via Zoom |
| Friday | 10:00 am | Mass in Church and 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

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

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

website: 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.

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