



Open Questions Bring Light To See As God Sees – Do We Want To See?

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

March 22, 2020 - 4th Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16:1-13 & John 9:1-41 with Ephesians 5:8-14

The virus is creating fear and panic. Questions want answers. Answers will take away our fears and stop panic attacks. It will pass. We'll make it through this crisis. No need to fear. No reason to panic. This question/answer process is a work in progress.

Are we chosen to see the signs of the times through the light of the Gospel? Are we chosen to judge as Jesus judges? Are we chosen to hear open questions? Do we want to respond as "children of the light," to quote St. Paul?

Jesus sends the blind man to the "Pool of Siloam" – the Pool called "Sent." The baptism we received opened our eyes to walk by faith and not by sight – human sight. The confirmation we received sent us to renew the face of the earth, to judge as Jesus.

Follow the questioning of the man born blind and now able to see. Those who wanted to find the truth asked open questions to discover. Those who know the answer do so with closed questions.

The virus – how do we see in light of the gospel? We here at St. Peter Claver Catholic Community are seeking to find how to bring our talents given to us in birth and our gifts entrusted to us in confirmation to heal the wounds caused by sin.

We are seeking to do so to give glory to God. We are seeking to learn how to judge as a doctor would listen to symptoms of sickness with a view to seeking a cure. Our questions want to be open. We are not accusing as much as accompanying.

Jesse was judging according to the world - he didn't present David as the one who would be chosen. But God asked through Samuel, "Are these all your children?" The question was open and the answer was the one chosen by God and sent.

Let's judge as the One Who sends us. We are in a world that wants to control God. It's been this way since the "fall." When events happen that cause fear of death, which is the result of the "fall," we are sent to respond with compassion. We are to share the joy of the Gospel. What a gift we know – Jesus lives, don't be afraid.

Response to Coronavirus

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, and as determined by the Archdiocese of Detroit, all public Masses, as well as in-person faith formation programs and other parish events and meetings, are suspended until April 6, 2020. Accordingly, any such scheduled parish events or meetings will either be converted to a tele/video conference or postponed. Participants will be informed of such changes.

If you have a private need, such as to arrange for a baptism, marriage, anointing of the sick, funeral or individual confession, please contact the Parish Office.

The "live" Parish Calendar, along with other information, are available on the parish website at [spsccdetroit.org](https://www.spsccdetroit.org).

Let's continue to pray for one another!

Virtual Mass

While you are unable to attend Mass in person, you can benefit by participating in Masses offered on TV or online. Check your TV listing for Masses offered on CTND, or go to <https://www.aod.org/livemasses>, or go to our website at [spsccdetroit.org](https://www.spsccdetroit.org). This is a wonderful way to share time with your family as you join in the Mass together.

Unfortunately, this does not include reception of the Eucharist, which is the "source and summit" of our liturgy. Therefore, during these Masses, you are given the opportunity to unite yourself to the Eucharist spiritually by reciting the **Act of Spiritual Communion** during Holy Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be separated from you.

Amen!

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.

Family "Stay at Home" Ideas

The Coronavirus is providing an opportunity to bring families closer together in faith. Here are some ideas for this week based on *Unleash the Gospel*.

Monday - Encounter: Take time to pray in Silence

Take time today to rest in the Lord. You can spend your time inside or outside; just find a space that works for you and your family members.

How to: Set aside a period of time in silence (15 to 30 minutes) to spend time with the Lord in prayer.

Tuesday - Grow: What it takes to be called a Saint

Take some time to learn more about the path to sainthood and reflect on saints that have special meaning to you and your family.

How to: Reflect on the questions below:

1. What are some ways God is calling you to help Him reach people?
2. Many turn to the saints to ask for prayers from them. Who are saints that you ask to pray for you? Why?
3. Take some time to learn more about a specific saint or the patron saint of something you are interested in. Not sure where to start? Check out more about our local saint, Fr. Solanus Casey.

Wednesday - Witness: Pray a decade of the rosary aloud as you walk through your neighborhood

Celebrate the Annunciation by reflecting on Mary's journey while walking through your neighborhood.

How to: Grab a rosary (or use your fingers). If you only have time for one decade, consider praying the 1st Mystery of the Joyful Mysteries today: *The Annunciation of the Angel to Mary*.

Thursday - Encounter: Family Praise and Worship Time

Spend some time encountering the Lord through music either by playing/singing or worshipping with recorded music.

How to: Bring your family talent together to form a musical ensemble and learn some praise and worship music. You can even create your own instruments. Another option is to find some old Vacation Bible School CDs or stream other praise and worship music and praise God along with the music.

Friday - Grow: Family Prayer Sticks

This is a fun activity that can help your whole family build the habit of prayer. The prayers you include can be both traditional and for the specific needs during this time, like praying for our neighbors, healthcare workers and those who might be sick.

How to: You will take popsicle or craft sticks and write your prayer intentions on them. Don't have that crafting supply? You can use strips of paper or another creative substitute. Use "prayer sticks" during a family meal having each person take turns sharing the intention on their stick.

Saturday - Witness: Pray the Angelus Over the Phone

Take time to unite your prayers with others.

How to: Call or video chat with a relative, neighbor, or fellow parishioner at a specific time to pray the Angelus together. Select a prayer leader and consider beginning your prayer with any prayer intentions you have. The Angelus is traditionally prayed at 6 a.m., 12 p.m., and 6 p.m. so consider praying at that time to unite your prayer with others around the world.

2020 DATES

BOYS' 2 WEEK CAMPS

Ages 8-13 yrs | \$699

Session 1
Sunday, June 21 - Sunday, July 5

Session 2
Sunday, July 5 - Sunday, July 19

Session 3
Sunday, July 19 - Sunday, August 2

HORSE CAMPS

Girls Ages 10-16 yrs | \$460

Sunday, June 14 - Saturday, June 20

Boys Ages 10-16 yrs | \$460
Sunday, August 2 - Saturday, August 8

BOYS' ROPES ADVENTURE CAMP

Ages 11-16 yrs | \$460

Sunday, August 2 - Saturday, August 8

BOYS' 1 WEEK CAMPS

Ages 8-13 yrs | \$460

Mini Camp A
Sunday, June 21 - Sunday, June 28

Mini Camp B
Sunday, June 28 - Sunday, July 5

Mini Camp C
Sunday, July 5 - Sunday, July 12

Mini Camp D
Sunday, July 12 - Sunday, July 19

Mini Camp E
Sunday, July 19 - Sunday, July 26

Mini Camp F
Sunday, July 26 - Sunday, August 2

Mini Camp G
Sunday, August 2 - Saturday, August 8

GIRLS' CAMPS

Ages 8-16 yrs | \$460

Sunday, June 14 - Saturday, June 20

Sunday, August 9 - Saturday, August 15

PARENT & CHILD WEEKENDS

MOTHER & DAUGHTER

\$205 Parent and 1 Child (\$50 for each additional child)

Friday, June 12 - Sunday, June 14

Friday, August 14 - Saturday, August 16

FATHER & SON

\$205 Parent and 1 Child (\$50 for each additional child)

Friday, June 26 - Sunday, June 28

Friday, July 24 - Sunday, July 26

DISCOUNTS

Multi-session and sibling discounts are available. Check out www.campsanctamaria.org for more info.



Since our founding in 1933, Camp Sancta Maria, located in the wooded landscape of Gaylord in the heart of Northern Lower Michigan, has been offering young people ages 8 to 16 a summer full of fun, personal growth, and spiritual development.

At Camp Sancta Maria, our campers escape their daily routines of electronics and digital media in a technology-free zone to enjoy 96 acres of sacred space filled with excitement and adventure, while they make new friends and learn interpersonal skills in an atmosphere of Christian faith.

Camp Sancta Maria is fully accredited by the American Camp Association.



For more information and to register, visit us at www.campsanctamaria.org. For questions, contact us at 248-822-8199 or office@campsanctamaria.org.

WWW.CAMPSANCTAMARIA.ORG

prepare to celebrate

THE TRIDUUM
in your parish

St. Paul of the Cross
Passionist Retreat Center
23333 Schoolcraft, Detroit

We invite you to enhance your participation in your parish's Triduum liturgy by spending some time in reflection at St. Paul's. Join us as we celebrate this one unique and unrepeatable event: the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Discover the significance of this event on your life today and grow in understanding of its eternal impact.

Holy Saturday
April 11

Good Friday
April 10

Holy Thursday
April 9

Freewill Offering • Join us on one day or all three • All are Welcome

Daily Format

9:00 am: Gathering
9:30 to noon:

Presentation by a member of our ministry team
Personal prayer and reflection
Small group sharing
Opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Call us at
(313)286-2800
or visit
stpaulretreat.org
for more
information.

Detroit Catholic en Español

Detroit Catholic, the digital news service of the Archdiocese of Detroit, recently launched a Spanish-language sister site: Detroit Catholic en español. With a focus on sharing news of interest to our Hispanic brothers and sisters, a dedicated team of reporters will share content from local producers, columnists and partners reporting on Catholic news and events in the local Church in southeast Michigan and across the world. For more information, visit detroitcatholic.com.

Your gifts to the Catholic Services Appeal make possible ministries such as this. Visit aod.org for more information on CSA-funded ministries and events.

Stewardship Thoughts

Today's Scripture passages center on blindness — both physical blindness and not seeing what God seeks to reveal to us. In St. John's Gospel, the evangelist tells of Jesus curing the blind man at the Pool of Siloam. But the Pharisees, the lawyers of Jesus' day, do not accept his account of the healing and expel him from the synagogue — the Pharisees are blind to Jesus' mission. In the First Book of Samuel, the Lord chooses David as king rather than his brothers and proclaims to Samuel: Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart. In St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, he reminds us to live in the Lord as children of the light. As faithful stewards on a journey to holiness, what blinds us from full union in Christ? This Lenten season, make your prayer life a priority. Draw closer to the Lord through daily communication with Him, remembering to also take time to listen.

Prayer to St. Peter Claver

As St. Peter Claver was



...so we are called!

Strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we implore our patron,
Saint Peter Claver

Prayer for an end to the coronavirus crisis:

Loving God, we come before you in our time of need. We lay before you our concerns and fears over the spread of the coronavirus. We know that you are mightier than all our fears and that the name of Jesus is the name above all other names. We ask, in the name of Jesus, that you stop the spread of the coronavirus. In your mercy, heal those who are sick and lead those who have died into your heavenly kingdom. We ask this in the mighty name of Jesus. Amen.

Archdiocese of Detroit - Coronavirus Update

As recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), public gatherings should be limited to 10 or fewer people for the next 15 days. To ensure that we are in alignment with these guidelines, attendance at weddings and funerals must be limited to no more than 10 people through March 30.

Food Pantries and Blood Drives

Parish food pantries may remain in operation. Please ensure that you continue to follow all necessary guidelines from government agencies to ensure the safety of parish staff, volunteers and those making use of the food pantry.

Parishes are permitted to continue holding blood drives as a way to support the community in the midst of this pandemic. Please be in contact with the Red Cross to ensure that all proper safety and health precautions are met.

Blessing and Distribution of Palms on Palm Sunday

As a means of remaining connected with parishioners during this time, parishes are encouraged to bless palms on Palm Sunday and make them available to parishioners that day and throughout Holy Week. As Palm Sunday approaches, please contact your parish for more information about their plans for the distribution of blessed Palms.

Laudato Si' Week

Renewing his "urgent call to respond to the ecological crisis," Pope Francis invited the 1.3 billion Catholics worldwide to join a week of celebration and action in May commemorating the fifth anniversary of his landmark encyclical "*Laudato Si', on Care for Our Common Home*."

In a video message March 3, Francis officially announced Laudato Si' Week, set to take place May 16-24. Throughout the nine days, the pope has asked the global Catholic community to undertake ambitious actions to address the mounting environmental perils facing the planet and its people — climate change; ecosystems in the Amazon, Australia and the Arctic approaching tipping points; and the unprecedented threat of biodiversity loss facing 1 million plant and animal species.

The initiative is the latest spearheaded by the Vatican under Francis, who throughout his seven-year papacy has persistently called Catholics and non-Catholics alike to an ecological conversion to safeguard the environment and preserve its natural resources for present and future generations.

Collection Results

March 15 – 3rd Sunday of Lent

Envelopes:	\$ 100.00
Loose:	0.00
Online:	240.00
Total Collection:	<u>\$ 340.00</u>

During these difficult times, we rely on your support. Weekly donations can be sent to the Parish Office. Or this is an excellent time to consider online giving. It's convenient, secure, and totally in your control!



Give Online at spcccdetroit.org

A Verse a Day For You to Pray

Today: Ephesians 5:8-10: Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

Monday: Isaiah 65:17-18b: Thus says the LORD: Lo, I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; The things of the past shall not be remembered or come to mind. Instead, there shall always be rejoicing and happiness in what I create.

Tuesday: Psalms 46:2-3: God is our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in distress. Therefore we fear not, though the earth be shaken and mountains plunge into the depths of the sea.

Wednesday: Psalms 40:7-8a: Sacrifice or oblation you wished not, but ears open to obedience you gave me. Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not; then said I, "Behold I come."

Thursday: John 5:36b-37a: Jesus said to the Jews: "The works that the Father gave me to accomplish, these works that I perform testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. Moreover, the Father who sent me has testified on my behalf."

Friday: John 7:28-29: So Jesus cried out in the temple area as he was teaching and said, "You know me and also know where I am from. Yet I did not come on my own, but the one who sent me, whom you do not know, is true. I know him, because I am from him, and he sent me."

Saturday: Psalms 7:2-3: O LORD, my God, in you I take refuge; save me from all my pursuers and rescue me, Lest I become like the lion's prey, to be torn to pieces, with no one to rescue me.

Note: All verses are taken from the Mass readings for the day.

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, 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, Wayne Weamer, Carmel Weems, Leonard & Ona Wilson

Please Pray for Them as They Pray for Us!!

Also, Please Remember in Prayer:

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

Ministers Schedule March 29, 2020

No Mass Scheduled Due to Coronavirus.
Check your television listings for Masses on EWTN or CTND, or go to our website at spcccdetroit.org.

Meetings/Events This Week

Tuesday	10:00 am	St. Vincent de Paul at Mt. Lebanon
	6:30 pm	Vicariate Meeting via Zoom Video Conference
Wednesday	1:00 pm	Lectio Divina via Zoom Video Conference
Saturday	9:30 am	Mission Discernment Team via Zoom Video Conference

*Legend: PH=Parish House; MC=Marygrove College
Church refers to the Sacred Heart Chapel at Marygrove College*

Keep in Touch

During this difficult time, if you know someone who is alone, give them a call, or contact the Parish Office.

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.

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: Monday - Thursday,
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

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

Mary Chavez-Thedford, Administrative Assistant

Ronald Galletero, Facilities Manager

Tanda Flounory, Parish Pastoral Council Chair

LaTanya Mahdi, Finance Council Chair