



It Reads Like An Open Book – Can We Wait?

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

May 24, 2020 - Feast of the Ascension

Acts 1:1-11 & Matthew 28:16-20 with Ephesians 1:17-23

Luke is about to begin his second book. What's the first, his Gospel that recorded Mary's remembering what she shared with Paul and John. She shared the journey of her Son as she accompanied Him. If we listen to her way, we'll never doubt.

Why? Doubt seeps into the soul as we let yesterday's facts define tomorrow's future. Imagine. "Some of the disciples doubted." Where? At the mountain where Jesus is about to ascend into heaven. Yesterday's facts? Question – will it work tomorrow?

Between His going to His Father and His Father's sending the Holy Spirit, Jesus' last answer to their questioning Him, "It's not for you to know the time or the seasons." Mary heard it as well as the disciples. Are we aware that Mary didn't know either?

I'll be with you all days, until the end. What that means is there is an end in our future. But why worry or doubt? Why not keep the "eyes of our heart" on His word as our light and know what is the hope that belongs to His call?

Did we hear the New Adam? In the revealed truth found in Genesis' first account of creation Adam names all of creation including Eve, the mother of the living. Now Paul writes to the people of Ephesus, "all in His name" – the New Adam fulfills all.

Here we are. There are three words that relate to the same truth – wait, trust and hope. It is the same teaching that is at the core of our faith. It is the same teaching that expresses the source of our joy. Do we say – "Jesus, I trust in You?"

I'm from Missouri – what we do is what we mean by what we say. I pray for all of us to walk by faith and not by sight. We can question the particulars. No one is perfect. But to question the one who calls us only means we don't love Jesus unconditionally.

I pray we are growing in our Confirmation Commitment to be people who believe we are "chosen to be sent." Mary didn't know tomorrow. She stood at the cross and was there as her Son ascended. She went to the upper room to wait till the Father of her Son would send the Holy Spirit. Read the second book – the Acts – we're the third!

Resumption of Public Celebration of Eucharist

On May 12, in a **Letter to the Faithful** (*provided later in this bulletin*), Archbishop Vigneron announced that public Masses can resume in the Archdiocese of Detroit beginning May 19. Accordingly, we will resume our Mass at Marygrove College next Sunday, May 31, at 10:00 a.m. Mass will be different! We ask for your patience as we implement changes to ensure the safety and health of all who join us at Eucharist. **Importantly, you must be wearing a cloth mask that covers your nose and mouth when you enter the building.** Other practices related to seating, receiving Eucharist, etc. will be explained next week.

We understand that, due to health risks, not everyone will be able to attend Mass right away. Accordingly, we will provide the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass live from Marygrove via Zoom. A link will be available on our website spcccdetroit.org. If you do not have access to the internet, you can benefit by participating in Masses offered on TV. Check your TV listing for Masses offered on **CTND**.

Zoom MiniSeries: Sharing the Cure to a Wounded World

This 7-part mini-series concludes via Zoom conferencing this Thursday. Two time slots are available, 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The links to join will be on our parish website.

Take part in the mini-series to learn how the Fruit of the Holy Spirit, along with our Gifts of the Holy Spirit can be strengthened to bring Eucharistic healing into the communities to change the world.

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.

A Letter from Archbishop Vigneron

May 12, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters,

I write today to share some measure of hope during this difficult time of pandemic and social distancing. In recent weeks, we have watched with relief as our State of Michigan gradually opened to select businesses and activities, with prudent precautions firmly in place to prevent a severe “second wave” of the coronavirus pandemic. In keeping with this gradual reopening of our society, it is necessary that we make similar arrangements within our local Church to allow once again for the communal celebration of Holy Mass, which at its core is the most “essential” activity known to our world.

In these liturgical directives you will see details for the return to public Mass on May 19, 2020. The most important category of individuals to participate at Mass at this time should be those preparing to enter the Catholic Church in the weeks ahead. These directives will need strict adherence for all public liturgies, including weddings, funerals, and baptisms. The Mass you may attend in the weeks ahead will look and feel quite different from the Mass you remember from two months ago. It will be imperative for all of us – pastors, parish staff, volunteers, and all the faithful – to work together during these times. The pandemic is not over and safety precautions must be followed in order to promote the continued health and safety of everyone in our community.

Additionally I am sharing with you updated liturgical guidelines, which have been assembled by the COVID-19 Liturgical Committee. These guidelines have taken into account expert advice from the medical community, liturgical experts, and public health leaders. They are meant to assist pastors and the faithful in safely participating in Holy Mass while maintaining the sound health precautions counseled by health and government officials. Through it all, we must remember that this virus does not discriminate between gatherings; a group gathered for sacred worship is not immune by the merits of its gathering. It is only through our careful observance of these precautions that we make it possible to resume public Mass. For more information about all these guidelines and other resources, please visit www.aod.org/emergencyresponse.

When this pandemic began, I directed priests of the Archdiocese of Detroit to suspend all public Masses as we assessed the situation and explored a safe way to bring Christ to the people, both through the Word of God and the Sacraments. This was an unfortunate but necessary decision in light of the severity of the pandemic and the number of unknowns associated with this new and deadly virus. Know that I have prayed during this time for you, the faithful of southeast Michigan, especially during my private and live streamed Masses. I pray you have felt the loving comfort of Christ as you awaited the day you could return to his Real Presence in the Eucharist. And I rejoice with you and thank God today as we move toward the gradual reopening of our parish communities.

Asking the continued intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron
Archbishop of Detroit

A Verse a Day For You to Pray

Today: Acts 1:8: Jesus said to his apostles: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Monday: Psalms 69:6-7b: The father of orphans and the defender of widows is God in his holy dwelling. God gives a home to the forsaken; he leads forth prisoners to prosperity.

Tuesday: Psalms 68:20-21: Blessed day by day be the Lord, who bears our burdens; God, who is our salvation. God is a saving God for us; the LORD, my Lord, controls the passageways of death.

Wednesday: John 17:11b-12: Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed, saying: "Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one just as we are one. When I was with them I protected them in your name that you gave me, and I guarded them, and none of them was lost except the son of destruction, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

Thursday: John 17:20-21: Lifting up his eyes to heaven, Jesus prayed saying: "I pray not only for these, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me."

Friday: Psalms 103:1-2: Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

Saturday: Psalms 11:5,7: The LORD searches the just and the wicked; the lover of violence he hates. For the LORD is just, he loves just deeds; the upright shall see his face.

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

May 31, 2020

Public Mass will resume in the Sacred Heart Chapel at Marygrove College. New minister schedules are under development.

Meetings/Events This Week

Tuesday	10:00 am	St. Vincent de Paul at Mt. Lebanon
	6:30 pm	Vicariate Meeting via Zoom Conference Call
Wednesday	1:00 pm	Lectio Divina via Zoom Video Conference
	6:30 pm	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting via Zoom Conference Call
Thursday	1:00 pm	Sharing the Cure to a Wounded World via Zoom Video Conference
	7:00 pm	Sharing the Cure to a Wounded World via Zoom Video Conference
Sunday	10:00 am	Mass in Church

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

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

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

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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