



**Discern and Affirm – the Joy of Redemptive Love
Reflection from Fr. John Phelps, C.Ss.R.**

**August 23, 2020 - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 22:19-23 & Matthew 16: 13-20 with Romans 11:33-36**

Discern the situation in which we live. The tension caused by the Pandemic is a preoccupation for parents and the police, for employers and government. When we hear of the power to shut down or open up, to bind or to loose, are we aware of our Creator?

The relationship between the Creator and the created, between the Redeemer and the redeemed, lies within the process toward affirmation. It happened in 2013 when the Cardinals of the Catholic Church affirmed Pope Francis from Argentina.

Now seven years later what are some of the signs of the wisdom of God working through those chosen to serve as servant leaders, as our Pope? Isn't it amazing that we are loved by an awesome God – who sent His Son – because He loves us so much?

The Joy of the Gospel is the first exhortation that the Pope published for all the world to hear the hope that the Pope proclaims. Our Church wants to transform our mission, amid the crisis of commitment, with spirit-filled evangelizers!

To Care for our Common Home is Pope Francis' second announcement. We must take care of the earth. It doesn't belong to anyone. It is meant to support and sustain all of us. What a message that is so timely as we search for the vaccine?

Then the Pope spoke to the Joy of Love. Marriage is a sacred gift. Family is the natural unfolding of their love. This is the ideal. But our real situations call for a "field hospital" where the doctor accompanies the broken. Listen to his prophetic challenge.

The eight beatitudes are the focus of our "doctor" looking for the cure to those who feel so discouraged. Rejoice and be Glad becomes Jesus' message to those who cause so much sadness, those who act as if God is not God.

Last year the Pope spoke to young people and to the entire people of God. Whatever we have done in forming of the next generation, it's not bearing good fruit. We want to discern, to listen to what God is calling us to transform in the way we organize!

Our Archdiocese began in 2012 to "listen" to change coming. We are now at a moment of change – "families of parishes" where we have 3 to 6 parishes in a family. Let's stand and say with Paul – How inscrutable His Ways, unsearchable His Wisdom! What an Awesome God we have!

Sunday Mass

Archbishop Vigneron has announced the extension of the dispensation from the Sunday obligation. A message from Father Stephen Pullis, Director of the Department of Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship regarding this announcement, along with its implications for all Catholics, is provided on the next page.

We will continue to celebrate Eucharist every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. at Marygrove College, with all proper precautions, including the wearing of face masks and the maintenance of social distancing. In addition, for those who are not able to attend Mass, we will livestream the Mass online via Zoom. A link is available on our website, spccdetroit.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 by your provider.

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.

Families of Parishes

Today, Father John will provide an update on the process of defining Families of Parishes, as announced by Archbishop Vigneron on Pentecost. Thank you to everyone who responded to our mail survey as we seek to discern which parishes would best complement St. Peter Claver as family partners. Input from the confirmed is essential, as the effectiveness of each family will require active involvement from both the ordained and the confirmed. Father will continue to provide updates as recommendations are prepared for presentation to the Archbishop by November 1.

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.

The Communications Department shares the following message from Father Stephen Pullis, Director of the Department of Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship and member of the liturgical team advising Archbishop Vigneron during the coronavirus pandemic:

In light of the continued spread of the coronavirus in southeast Michigan and the impossibility for parishes to safely accommodate all Catholics for Mass on Sundays, Archbishop Vigneron has extended the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation for all the faithful in the Archdiocese of Detroit, as well as for all travelers during their time within the territory of the Archdiocese of Detroit, until Monday, November 23, 2020.

While the dispensation from the grave obligation to attend Sunday Mass is in effect, all baptized Catholics are reminded of the grave necessity they have to keep holy the Lord's Day. Archbishop Vigneron wrote a pastoral note entitled "The Day of the Lord" little more than one year ago calling to mind this important spiritual obligation. As the day of the Resurrection of our Lord, Christians from the earliest days set Sunday 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 nourish his or her soul during these days. This means cultivating a prayer life in their homes, reading Sacred Scripture – especially the prescribed readings for the Sunday Mass – and making Christ the center of one's home and being his disciple the central identity of one's life. It also means continuing to understand Sunday as a day set apart for the Lord. This means activities on Sunday should be different from the pursuits of the rest of the week. Prayer and time for God, time for family, and works of charity should be central to a Catholic's Sunday.

The obligation to attend Mass (when not dispensed) on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is a grave call for us who have been incorporated into Christ by our baptism to share in the sacrifice of Christ to the Father. It is an obligation that we worship God in a way far superior to our most creative and ingenious efforts because it is not our work but Christ's. Therefore, we enter into the work of Christ (as members of his body) and we share in the graces of this sacrificial worship. While the dispensation remains in effect, it is imperative that we remember what awesomeness it is to participate at Mass, particularly in receiving Christ in the Holy Eucharist. To lose the centrality of the Mass in our lives would be a spiritual tragedy.

A general dispensation to all the faithful has been given so as not to unduly bind the consciences of those who are greatly troubled by the destructive potency of the coronavirus as well as to care for the most vulnerable among us. Catholics who engage in other activities that would present a similar or greater risk of contamination (eating out at restaurants, traveling, non-essential shopping, widening one's circle of contacts, etc.) should begin to return to Sunday Mass as they are able. While one does not commit a mortal sin by absenting one's self during these days due to the dispensation, one would be deprived of the immeasurable spiritual graces Christ desires for his faithful when they actively participate in the Mass.

Archbishop Vigneron and his advisors will continue to monitor and adjust this dispensation as needed for the spiritual and physical health of Catholics in southeast Michigan. Let us continue to invoke our patroness St. Anne for her protection of the faithful in the Archdiocese of Detroit and for a swift end to the coronavirus pandemic.

Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship

The Catholic bishops of the United States are pleased to offer once again to the Catholic faithful *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, our teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics. This statement represents our guidance for Catholics in the exercise of their rights and duties as participants in our democracy. You can download and print a copy of this guide at www.usccb.org/resources/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship.pdf. It is also available on our parish website.

Pope Francis on Defense of the Unborn

"Nowadays efforts are made to deny them [unborn children] their human dignity and to do with them whatever one pleases, taking their lives and passing laws preventing anyone from standing in the way of this. Frequently, as a way of ridiculing the Church's effort to defend their lives, attempts are made to present her position as ideological, obscurantist and conservative. Yet this defense of unborn life is closely linked to the defense of each and every other human right. It involves the conviction that a human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development" -- *Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation "The Joy of the Gospel," November 24, 2013.*

All the Information That's Fit to Print!

Our parish website, spcccdetroit.org, is your one-stop source for all things relating to St. Peter Claver. We are trying our best to keep it up to date as a means, along with the robocalls, of providing current information to those interested in our parish. Besides a "live" calendar and links to "virtual" events (such as Mass), the website provides special announcements, access to "online giving," event photos and videos, news of upcoming events, and, for those who cannot attend Mass, even access to this bulletin. Make it a point to check in regularly. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact Ed Shea.

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

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 August 30, 2020

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

During this period of transition to "normal" Sunday Mass, no set schedule for the Minister of Service, Lector, and Sacristan is available. Any questions should be addressed to Jennie Sinatra.

Meetings/Events This Week

Sunday	10:00 am	Mass in Church and via Zoom
Tuesday	10:00 am	St. Vincent de Paul at Mt. Lebanon
Sunday	10:00 am	Mass in Church and via Zoom
	3:00 pm	Life Directions Picnic at MC

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

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. 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: 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



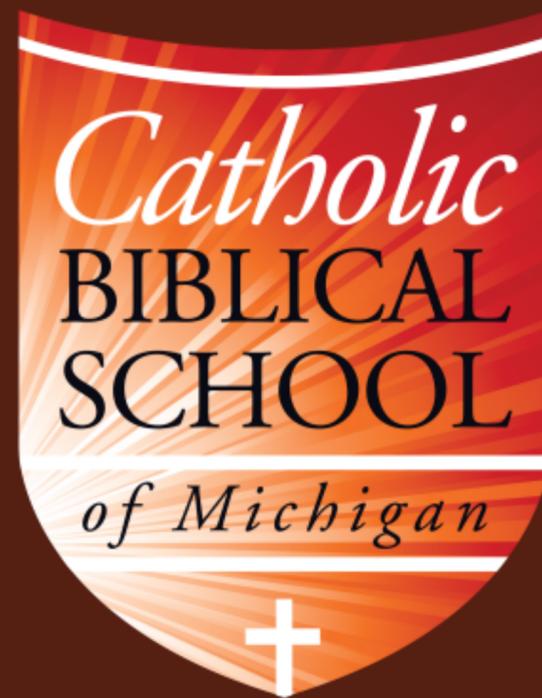
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