



**We Need The Doctor Before We Bring On The Judge**  
**Reflection from Fr. John Phelps, C.Ss.R.**  
**September 6, 2020 - 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Ezekiel 33:7-9 & Matthew 18:15-20 with Romans 13:8-10**

Sometimes the Word of Life is so intimate that it is a comfort in times of troubles. As I listen to Paul, “Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another,” I am coming to understand what it means to take people where they’re at before I say anything else.

With all the public outcry over Black Lives Matter, over politicians on one side or the other, over jobs, housing and schools, we can get distracted from those who love us and whom we love the most. The Message today in the Word is up close and personal.

Love between two people who conceive and birth a child – this is very personal. As we deal with all the other relationships that will unfold, there is so much we can learn from such a moment. I invite us to slow up and enjoy God’s Way to reveal Life.

There is always meant to be three in every partnership. It’s the way God is. Father-Son-Spirit is the synergy creating. When this energy engages two people the importance of discipline to be mutual is the ideal.

All of us are born of two people who are growing into such an ideal. So let’s be real. To judge is important but it’s mutual. Between wife and husband and among members of the same family, it’s the way to move from good to great.

Ezekiel says it’s the way we express our love for those we claim to love. Matthew builds on the teaching by sharing the mature way to love. Begin one-on-one. Bring a friend, if it’s hard to express or difficult to hear. Only then bring the issue to the Church.

This is the way lovers who believe and trust each other grow. It comes second nature to those who are sincere. As Paul wrote, “Love does not evil to the neighbor; love is the fulfillment of the law.”

To get to the point of fulfillment I suggest we begin with healing at its heart. Let’s begin “where two or more gather in my name” says Jesus who will go on to share to forgive seven times seventy. Healing is forgiving that has no beginning or ending. This is the way Jesus taught the meaning of a faith-community. What a gift we are together.

**Sunday Mass**

Recognizing the ongoing health threat from the COVID-19 pandemic, Archbishop Vigneron has announced the extension of the dispensation from the Sunday obligation through the Feast of Christ the King, November 22, 2020.

While we will continue to celebrate Eucharist every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. at Marygrove College, utilizing all proper precautions, including the wearing of face masks, using hand sanitizer, and maintaining social distancing, we also will continue to livestream the Mass online via Zoom for those who are not able to attend Mass. A link is available on our website, [spccdetroit.org](http://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.***

**IMPORTANT MEETINGS**

This month, all 3 parish commissions, and the Parish Pastoral Council, will meet. These are very important meetings as we look to the formation of the Families of Parishes and how we will welcome other parishes to share in our priorities as we share in their priorities. The meeting dates are:

- Ministry September 9 2:00 pm
- Stewardship September 14 6:30 pm
- Mission September 17 7:00 pm
- Parish Council September 24 7:00 pm

Information for joining these meetings via Zoom will be provided to the participants.

**Happy Labor Day! Be sure to check the calendar as we resume sacramental formation, Lectio Divina and Women Bridging Change this week.**

***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.

## 2020 Catholic Services Appeal Begins Next Week

Have you considered that this time of challenge and uncertainty could possibly be the Church in Detroit's finest hour? This is a time for our parishes and communities to do what we do best: rise up. In southeast Michigan, we are no strangers to challenges, and we, with the grace and love of God, have always been resilient, rising from the ashes and overcoming these trials.

Over the past year, even amidst trial, we haven't stopped working to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, or equip individuals to know the love of God. This pandemic has not stopped us from sharing the Gospel! But this mission isn't something we can do alone.

Your generosity to the Catholic Services Appeal makes all these efforts possible. It brings livestreamed Mass to those who can't attend, powers our Christian Service programs and outreach, helps us learn how to better share Jesus in our diverse and multicultural Detroit community, and helps individuals and families grow closer to God even while physically distanced. Your gifts to the CSA does all this, and so much more.

Jesus told his disciples, "Rise up, and be not afraid." Now it is our turn to answer the call, to rise up and be united in the mission of Christ. Please, prayerfully consider making a one-time or recurring gift to help continue this mission and to help each parish, family, and individual throughout the Archdiocese bring the hope of Jesus and his message to Southeast Michigan and beyond.

CSA materials will be provided next week, or you can visit [www.givecsa.org](http://www.givecsa.org) for more information.

## St. Peter Claver Day

Wednesday is St. Peter Claver's Feast Day. We celebrate our parish's patron saint today. Also, as the patron saint of slaves, race relations, and ministry to African-Americans, the USCCB has recommended all people pray for St. Peter Claver's intercession, especially during these troubled times.

### *Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Intercessory Prayer Team*

Beverly Alessio, Inez (Retinella) Ails, Florine Anderson, Alberta Asmar, Sylvia Baker, Warren & Marcella Bridges, Donald & Barbara Carter, Michael Clarence Carter, Johnnie Davis, Peggy Endlein, Ron Galletero, 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 September 13, 2020

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

## Meetings/Events This Week

|           |          |   |
|-----------|----------|---|
| Sunday    | 10:00 am | Mass in Church and via Zoom                   |
| Monday    |          | <i>Happy Labor Day</i>                        |
| Tuesday   | 9:00 am  | Sacramental Mentors via Zoom                  |
|           | 10:00 am | St. Vincent de Paul at Mt. Lebanon            |
| Wednesday | 1:00 pm  | Lectio Divina Prayer via Zoom                 |
|           | 2:00 pm  | Ministry Commission via Zoom                  |
|           | 6:00 pm  | Women Bridging Change via Zoom                |
| Saturday  | 2:00 pm  | Ladies of Peter Claver via<br>Conference Call |
|           | 3:00 pm  | Sacramental Formation 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](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. 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](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 Galletero, Facilities Manager*

*Tanda Flounory, Parish Pastoral Council Chair*

*LaTanya Mahdi, Finance Council Chair*