



Who Do We Live For?

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

September 13, 2020 - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 27:30-28:7 & Matthew 18:21-35 with Romans 14:7-9

Every once in a while, St. Paul's teaching focused on his Confirmed Christians gives an amazing insight into the message from the Word of Life. Today is one of them. Reflecting upon "forgiving" which is the heart of the message – how strong it becomes! Jesus couldn't have been clearer. "I forgave you and you didn't forgive?"

"None of us live as our own master, none dies for ourselves. Live for the Lord, die for the Lord – we are the Lord's." Deepen the meaning of the sacrament of Baptism and the truth that we belong to Christ will become all embracing.

We will hear the message from Sirach and Matthew as people chosen to be sent to share the value of "forgiving" which is at the center of our Catholic Christian tradition. We will realize that we are to witness to "why" we forgive. Simply, we are forgiven.

Fallen human nature is very comfortable with wrath and anger, hateful and vengeful. Revenge and retaliation come easily to people who live for themselves and those they love. This is the world into which Jesus stepped, walked, talked forgiving.

Isn't it logical that anyone who is forgiven would want to forgive? Doesn't it make sense that those of us who were purchased and set free from slavery to sin would be the first to want to practice forgiving "seven times seventy times?"

Jesus is well aware that forgiving doesn't stop the wrongdoing. If sinning were to stop with forgiving, Peter's question of how many times to forgive would not have been 7 times 70. This means those who won't forgive, Jesus wants to forgive from His heart.

The only sin that can't be forgiven is the sin against the Holy Spirit. Recall that Jesus forgave His apostles after He rose by breathing the Holy Spirit on them. The sin against the Holy Spirit is to refuse to forgive, as I reflect on the Word.

May I suggest we all take time to examine our conscience, come to confession and let Jesus forgive us. Why? Because we belong to Him, because we want to be His special possession, because He chose us to live as ambassadors of reconciliation.

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, 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 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 Ministry Commission met this past week. The remaining meeting dates are:

- 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.

National Day of Prayer & Fasting

Fr. John Riccardo and the team of the Detroit-based non-profit apostolate ACTS XXIX are calling for a National Day of Prayer and Fasting on September 24, 2020. For more information, visit ActsXXIX.org.

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

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.

The initial CSA target for our parish was \$7,925, a reduction of 3.5% from last year. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Archdiocese has reduced all parish targets by 15%, which results in a revised target for St. Peter Claver of \$6,736.

For those who gave in 2017, 2018 or 2019, CSA materials have been mailed directly by the Archdiocese. For all others, we will send materials via mail, or you can visit www.givecsa.org for information or to make a donation.

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, Vickie Viado, Constance Washington-Daniel, Larry Washington, and relatives of our parishioners

Ministers Schedule September 20, 2020

**Celebrant: Rev. John Phelps, C.Ss.R.
Minister of Service: Bill Tidwell
Lector: Kathryn Crutcher
Cantor: Aurelia Smith**

Meetings/Events This Week

Sunday	10:00 am	Mass in Church and via Zoom
Monday	6:30 pm	Stewardship Commission via Zoom
Tuesday	10:00 am	St. Vincent de Paul at Mt. Lebanon
Wednesday	1:00 pm	Lectio Divina Prayer via Zoom
	6:00 pm	Women Bridging Change via Zoom
Thursday	7:00 pm	Mission Commission via Zoom
Saturday	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

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 Galletero, Facilities Manager

Tanda Flounory, Parish Pastoral Council Chair

LaTanya Mahdi, Finance Council Chair