

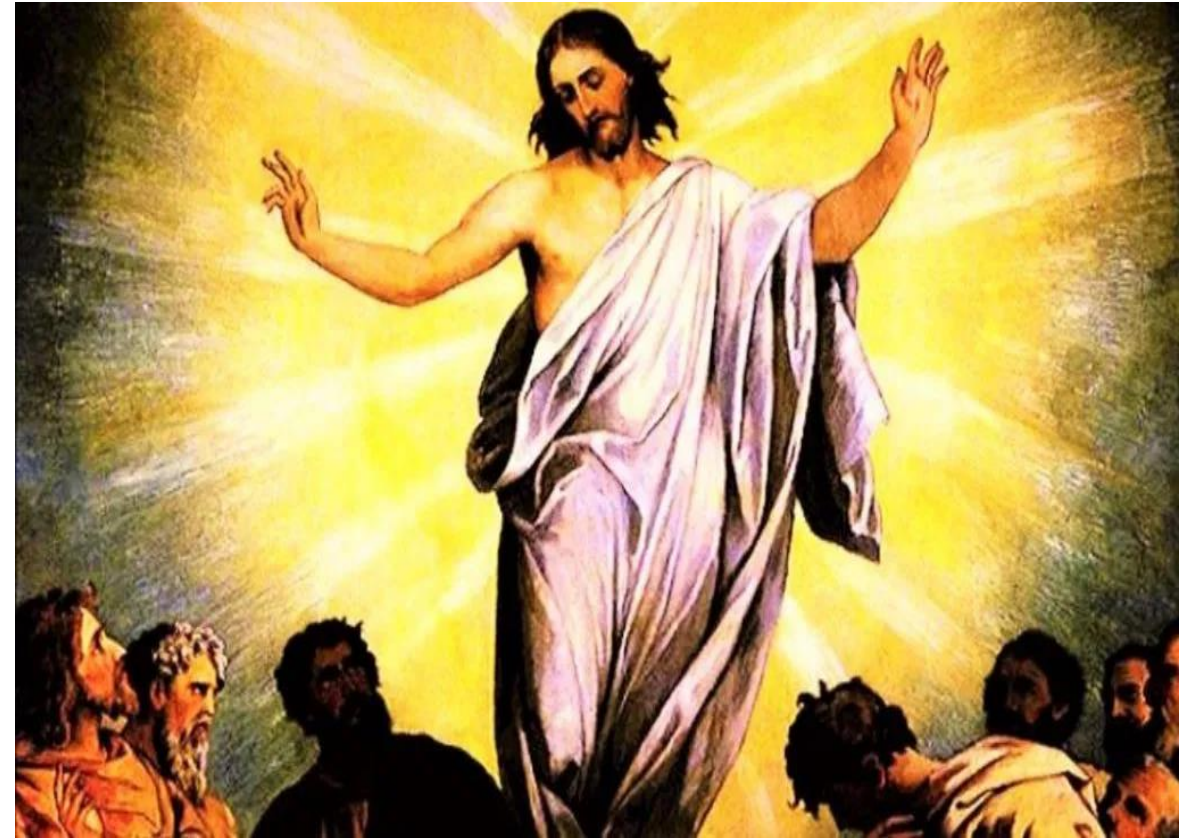


**COME AND WORSHIP WITH US
AT ST. PETER CLAVER
CATHOLIC CHURCH!**

- You are invited to return to St. Peter Claver where you can experience God's **mercy**, love, kindness, and unbounded generosity with other worshippers who, though not perfect, love the Lord nonetheless in spirit and in truth.
- Here at St. Peter Claver, we desire that you encounter the incredible gift of **mercy** with us at whatever point you find yourself in your life.
- Encountering **mercy** means encountering God. It can transform your life, your relationships, your work, and your ability to embrace and experience all of life.

- God's unfailing **mercy** will strengthen, heal, and equip you to fulfill his plan for your life.
- "God doesn't tire of us," Pope Francis has said, but "we are the ones who tire of seeking his **mercy**."
- We pray that, while worshipping with us, you have experienced our motto: ***"We are Spirit-Led, Gospel Fed, and Mercy Filled, where the joy of the Lord is our strength."***

If you felt welcomed, let us know; if you did not, let us know; and we will get back to you. **Contact us at 301-872-5460 or st.peterclaver@verizon.net**



SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MATTHEW 28:16-20

ST. PETER CLAVER CATHOLIC CHURCH

REV. SCOTT WOODS, PASTOR

WELCOME TO ST. PETER CLAVER ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

"The Church on the Holy Hill Where the Joy of the Lord is Our Strength"

REV. SCOTT WOODS, PASTOR

ST. PETER CLAVER CATHOLIC CHURCH

16922 St. Peter Claver Road, P. O. Box 240, St. Inigoes, MD 20684

Phone: 301-872-5460; Email: st.peterclaver@verizon.net; Website: www.stpeterclaverchurch.org

Parish Facebook:

Group - St. Peter Claver Church Community; Page - St. Peter Claver Catholic Church

Father Scott's Cell (Text Preferred): 301-512-1955

Parish Secretary Cell (Fran Hawkins): 301-904-6514

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2020



The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.

Then Jesus approached and said to them,

"All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." [MATTHEW 28:16-20](#)

REFLECTIONS ON THE SCRIPTURES OF TODAY'S MASS

First Reading: [Acts 1:1-11](#)

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. ...Today's first reading recounts the Ascension as recorded by Luke in the book of Acts, which is the sequel to the Gospel of Luke. Why did Jesus ascend? Was He abandoning His followers? By no means! Jesus ascended in order to reign over the kingdom of the Church from heaven. But He did not leave us orphans. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to guide us. In saying to His disciples, "you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you," He promised the very presence of the divine with them. Jesus is fully God and so is the Holy Spirit. Thus, whether Jesus stayed or ascended, God would be with them! Jesus, in His flesh, was limited to one geographical location. By ascending and sending the Holy Spirit, the faith could spread to the ends of the earth. Just imagine having to travel to Israel to meet Jesus in person! Instead, the Holy Spirit dwells within us here and now; and Jesus is present to us in the Eucharist whatever part of the world we are in. Jesus sent His disciples to be "witnesses" to the ends of the earth, and He promised to give them everything they would need to succeed. The fact that we are following Jesus 2,000 years later is evidence of their success.

Second Reading: [Ephesians 1:17-23](#)

Jesus Is Lord - Ephesians 1

In Christ we have every blessing of the Spirit in the heavens

Here the Apostle Paul explains what the Holy Spirit, who Jesus promised in the first reading, offers us. With the Holy Spirit, we gain "wisdom," "knowledge" of God, "hope," an "inheritance," "power," and much more! The Holy Spirit is the very divine life dwelling within us, helping us to know God. Paul then goes on to reference Jesus' resurrection and ascension. In these two events, which were followed by the giving of the Holy Spirit, we

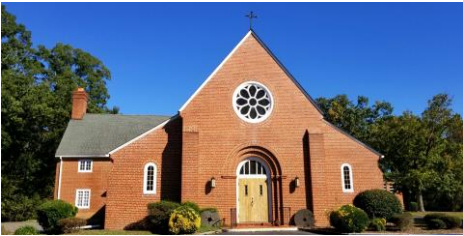
see the identity of Jesus revealed. He is the king of the universe! Jesus sits at the right hand of God in heaven, which indicates a position of the utmost honor and sovereignty. Jesus is no mere creature elevated to this position. He is divine Himself—the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. Jesus reigns over all of creation, including the spiritual realm of angels ("every principality, authority, power, and dominion" refers to orders of angels). Specifically, Jesus is the head of the Church, His body. The Church is "the fullness" of Jesus. Therefore, in the Church we can encounter the king of the universe and participate in His work!

Gospel Reading: [Matthew 28:16-20](#)

Just before His ascension, Jesus commanded His disciples to "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." This statement is called the Great Commission... His exhortation applies to us today just as much as it did to the original disciples. Jesus calls us to spread the gospel to everyone. In fact, at the end of every Mass we are sent out to bring Jesus to the world. Recall one version of the dismissal at Mass: "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord" or, another more common version, "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life." Yet, we can't give away what we don't have. What then is "the gospel" that we are to proclaim? The word "gospel" means "good news." What is the good news? Simply put, it is Jesus Himself. Jesus is God in the flesh. God became man in order to bring about salvation from sin. All that Jesus did and taught was good news. But even more so, the death and resurrection of Jesus are the center of the gospel. Without Jesus' death and resurrection, the rest would be meaningless. He died to take all our sins to the grave and He rose to bring us new life and prove victorious over sin and death. As a result, we can have salvation from our sins and communion with God. Now that is good news and it's worth sharing! Who will you share it with this week?

<https://stjoesmarion.org/news/readings-reflections-for-the-ascension-of-the-lord>

**SUNDAY PUBLIC MASSES WILL BE RETURNING TO SPC
ON PENTECOST SUNDAY
MAY 31, 2020**



In a letter to the parishioners and supporters of St. Peter Claver Church, Father Scott Woods announced that **Public Sunday Masses at St. Peter Claver will resume on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020 with the 10:00AM Mass.**

To do this in a safe, healthy, and orderly manner, guidelines of the Archdiocese of Washington have been followed in establishing two options to our parishioners to attend **Public Sunday Masses** at St. Peter Claver:

Option 1 – Go inside the Church to participate in the Mass and **Option 2** - Stay in the vehicle on the Church grounds to participate in the Mass. In either case, you are asked to comply to the following procedures, which parishioners are encouraged to review before they attend Mass. This advance review will hopefully allow our public Masses to run smoothly:

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR ALL PARISHIONERS:

OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS: You are still not obligated to attend Mass. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation issued by the Archdiocese on March 12, 2020, is still in effect until further notice. For those who do not attend Mass, they are still encouraged to participate in the livestreamed Masses from St. Peter Claver’s **Facebook Page:**
<https://www.facebook.com/StPeterClaverCatholicChurch/>.

VULNERABLE (HIGH RISK) PARISHIONERS: Parishioners who are particularly vulnerable (e.g., over the age of sixty, or have existing heart or lung conditions, diabetes, or otherwise immuno-compromised) are strongly encouraged to remain home and should not volunteer to fulfill any liturgical ministries.

SICK PARISHIONERS: Refrain from attending Mass if you or someone in your household is sick (i.e., if you or anyone in your household is running a fever, has a cough or is experiencing any kind of respiratory illness). This is to prevent the spread of any illness to those around you.

ARRIVAL: If you plan to attend Mass via Option 1 or Option 2, please plan to arrive early for seating and/or parking. Follow the directions of the Ushers regarding parking.

GATHERING BEFORE AND AFTER MASS: Gatherings of parishioners before and after Mass inside the church and outside on the parking lot are prohibited for your safety and well-being. Because the County still has restrictions on people assembling in groups outside of buildings, we ask that you come straight into the church at the start of Mass and return to your vehicles immediately after Mass.

DEPARTURE: Plan to quickly depart from the premises immediately after Mass. Follow the directions of the Ushers regarding exiting the parking lot.

DETAILS OF THE OPENING:

Specific details of the opening can be found in the letter itself, which was sent out on Thursday, May 21, 2020. For a copy of the letter, call the Parish Office or send an email to the Church.



MASS IS LIVESTREAMED @ SPC

Change in Schedule when Mass Becomes Public

Weekend: May 23-24
SATURDAY: 8:00AM in English
SUNDAY: 9:00AM in English

Beginning Weekend: May 30-31
SUNDAY ONLY: 10:00AM in English

Mass is LIVESTREAMED on our Facebook page. To participate in our LIVESTREAMED Mass, tune in on our Facebook page by typing in the following link into your search engine:
<https://facebook.com/StPeterClaverCatholicChurch/>



The following are the Mass intentions for the next few weeks. Please send in your requests! Mass will be said with the **SPECIAL INTENTIONS** of the following for the following dates:

MAY 24: Frank and Judy Dove

MAY 31: Steve and Fran Hawkins

JUNE 7: Adam and Stevie-Mari Starks

JUNE 14: Shanice Fenwick



+
PRAY FOR
ALL THE
SICK PEOPLE
IN THIS
WORLD

Matt Allen; Judson “Mark” Barnes; Wayne Barnes; Anita Birdine; Stephanie Bowman; Eric Briscoe; Louise Briscoe; Bertille Bryan; Eva Butler; Geraldine Carroll; Mary Carroll; Catherine Carter; Chris Cassagnol; Gabriel Cassagnol; Shelly Cenci; Michael Chase; Kirk Crafton; Anthony Crafton; Yvonne Cutchember; Nolan Davidson; Mary Dove; Helena Dutch; James Gant; Jessica Goldring; Winston Green; Virginia Harriston; Janice Hewlett; Jimmie Hill; Mary Catherine Hickson; Sister Marilyn Hopewell; Thelma Jones; Willie Jones; Patti Lachkovic; Heaven McClane; Horace McClane, Jr.; Dianne McCombs; Arnold Moreland; Eleanor Moland; Vernicia Morgan; Angie Prucha; Dinah Robinson; Frank Smith; Patricia Smith; Charles L. Spears; Mary Spears; Catherine Taylor; Joseph Taylor; Vernon Thomas; Estelle Thompson; Huntington Wiggins; Charles Winters; Gail Yearick.

AND WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND SUFFERING FROM COVID-19, especially those who are in isolation (hospitals, nursing homes, ships, etc.) suffering alone; our sick health care professionals who are suffering because they are dedicated to saving the lives of others; and our sick national guard and military who are suffering because they are dedicated to keeping our country safe.

JOIN US TO PRAY THE ROSARY ON FRIDAYS @ 2:00PM

Toll Free Teleconference Line: *Dial-in #:* 1-605-475-4700
Access #: 870115

"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst." **Matthew 18:20**

Whether you join the rosary group or not, remember that somebody is praying for you every week.

NIGHTLY ROSARY ENCOURAGED BY THE CCW-ADW



The Council of Catholic Women for the Archdiocese of Washington (CCW-ADW) invites all, who would like to unite in prayer at this time of uncertainty, to join in our nightly Rosary at 8 p.m., 7 days a week. We offer this prayer for the healing of the Church and for our currently health - challenged world.

To join us, call 605-468-8016, ID 357090# at 8 p.m. seven days a week. If you have any questions, please email us at archdiocesecw@gmail.com.



On first anniversary as archbishop of Washington, Archbishop Gregory expresses thanks to local Catholics

MAY 21, 2020 LOCAL BY MARK ZIMMERMANN

<https://cathstan.org/news/local/on-first-anniversary-as-archbishop-of-washington-archbishop-gregory-expresses-thanks-to-local-catholics>

In a message posted on the Archdiocese of Washington's website and social media on May 21, 2020, the **first anniversary of his installation as archbishop of Washington**, Archbishop Wilton Gregory expressed his gratitude to local Catholics for welcoming him. He spent much of his first year visiting the parishes, schools and agencies in the Archdiocese and getting to know the local Catholic community. (Artwork courtesy Archdiocese of Washington)

Marking his first anniversary as the archbishop of Washington, Archbishop Wilton Gregory on May 21, 2020 offered **a special message of thanks** to local Catholics that was posted on the Archdiocese of Washington's website and on its social media.

In the message, Archbishop Gregory wrote, "Anniversaries are invaluable occasions to remember the past and how good God has been to us – to me! My first anniversary here falls a few days before Pentecost, which I view as a wonderful sign of providence and grace. **During this year, I have vividly seen first-hand how much the love of the Holy Spirit fills our archdiocesan family.**"

The archbishop also noted that, "The year has seen many great joys and, certainly more recently, some unique challenges. Thanks be to God that through it all, **'We are the Lord's.'** It is a comfort to know that as we continue on our pilgrim journey, there is still more for us to discover because love is an inexhaustible gift that continues to deepen, the more it is shared."

He closed his anniversary message by saying, "Thank you so very much for your support and prayers as I pray for you and your family."

The message was designed in the form of a card, with a heading that reads, **"A Blessed Year Together,"** and it also featured a collage of photos of Archbishop Gregory greeting a variety of people across the Archdiocese of Washington surrounding the words "Thank you for your very warm welcome."



ARCHBISHOP SPEAKS OUT ON THE MURDER OF AHMAUD ARBERY

(The following is a statement from Washington Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory regarding the recent fatal shooting of Ahmaud Arbery in Georgia.)

Currently, our attention is fixated on the global deadly virus. Desperately, we search for a vaccine to combat the coronavirus pandemic. Daily, we pray for the dead, those who have lost loved ones and first responders caring for our sick.

The recent brutal killing of Ahmaud Arbery in the state of Georgia reminds us of another virus that is much older, but just as deadly. The virus of racism inflicts hatred, violence, and death in our society and in the lives of far too many people. In the Georgia case of Ahmaud Arbery, once again, an unarmed Black man has had his life violently cut short. This murderous attack, like all acts of racism, hurts all of us in the Body of Christ since we are all made in the image and likeness of God, and deserve the dignity that comes with that existence.

We also see racism destroying the lives of Jewish, Muslim, and Christian people because of their religious and ethnic heritages. Racism triggers the divisive and xenophobic attitudes of nationalism. It also targets people because of their cultural traditions or physical appearances, and it threatens immigrant people who seek nothing more than the opportunity to improve their lives and the lives of their children.

We already have the balm that cures racism - compassion, mercy, love and justice. We must make sure we apply the balm. The prophet Jeremiah reminds us to seek the balm of Gilead and we know from Scripture that the balm is Jesus. Through Jesus, we become more compassionate, merciful, and loving to seek justice for all our neighbors.

<https://cathstan.org/news/local/on-first-anniversary-as-archbishop-of-washington-archbishop-gregory-expresses-thanks-to-local-catholics>



EXERCISE YOUR CITIZENSHIP RIGHT TO VOTE! PRIMARY ELECTION - JUNE 2- 7 AM UNTIL 8 PM

This election is a "vote by mail" election. You will receive a ballot by mail by early to mid-May at the address on file. If you want your ballot mailed to another address or download it from our website, please visit our [Absentee Voting page](#). All mailed ballots included a return envelope and prepaid postage. Completed ballots must be postmarked on or before Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

- Voters who prefer to drop off their ballots can do so from - Thursday, May 21, 2020 through Tuesday, June 2, 2020 [OR](#)
- You may vote in-person on election day, June 2, 2020 at [a vote center where you live](#)

Tithes & Offering

WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION: 5/17/2020

Offertory Collection	\$2,967.63
Budgeted Offertory=	\$2,900.00

OFFERTORY EXCEEDS BUDGET -\$67.63

We METour financial goal this week.

We are so very blessed!

Your generosity is much appreciated. We recognize that you are making sacrifices to financially support the costs associated with running the church and its ministries.

**WE THANK YOU FOR TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE OPTIONS THAT WE HAVE
MADE AVAILABLE FOR YOU TO CONTINUE TO TITHE
WITH YOUR WEEKLY OFFERTORY OR WITH YOUR GIFT DONATION:**

1. You can still **mail** in your offertory or gift donation:

St. Peter Claver Church, PO Box 240, St. Inigoes, MD 20684

2. You can download our **new mobile app**

Go to the appropriate app store to download the free Mobile App (Church by MinistryOne). Open the App and locate the church via zip (20684). Select "Saint Peter Claver Church" (SPCC). Follow the instructions.

3. You go on our **new church website (www.stpeterclaverchurch.org)**

Go to the website; locate "donate" on the navigation bar at the top; press the "donate" button; follow the simple instructions from "ParishSoft."

4. You can plan with your bank to set up an **electronic check (e-check) payment on the schedule that you prefer.** Your bank will mail your electronic payment to SPC.

5. You can now **TEXT YOUR DONATION**

Text To: 301-478-8765; Put as your message the word GIVE; When you send, you will receive a link from ParishSoft; click the link which will take you to the St. Peter Claver Church page; choose the fund to which you will be donating (offertory, gifts and donation, maintenance, etc.); put in your amount; indicate how you would like to give; please add the processing/convenience fee (2.5%) to your giving so that the church does not have to pick up the charge; press the submit button. **YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR GIVING!**

Please remember this: Whether you tithe or not, you will be kept in prayer and you are asked to pray for St. Peter Claver Church and the Church in general.



Five Ways To Observe Memorial Day

1. Attend Mass at a cemetery

Some Catholic cemeteries offer Mass on Memorial Day. To find one near you, contact your diocese or parish. ***(Or just visit a cemetery and pray on the graves of our deceased military.)***

2. Learn about Fr. Emil Kapaun

Emil Kapaun was a priest from Kansas and a U.S. Army chaplain serving in the 1940s and 1950s. During the Korean War he ministered to soldiers in battle. He was captured, spent seven months in prison, and died on May 23, 1951. In 2013 he posthumously received the **Medal of Honor**. The Church is currently considering him for sainthood. In 1993, St. John Paul II declared him a **Servant of God**. Take some time this Memorial Day to read about Fr. Kapaun. For more information, visit FatherKapaun.org or read *The Miracle of Father Kapaun: Priest, Soldier and Korean War Hero* (Ignatius Press, 2013). Fr. Kapaun, Servant of God, pray for us!

3. Participate in the National Moment of Remembrance

In 2000, Congress passed the National Moment of Remembrance Act, which asks all Americans to pause at **3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day** to honor those who have died in service to it.

4. Volunteer

Many charitable organizations focus their mission specifically on helping veterans. While Memorial Day specifically honors those who died in service to our nation, you still might want to look into honoring all military — active and retired. Research local organizations and opportunities near you that could use a helping hand. (Or donate to a Veteran cause.)

5. Pray a Memorial Day prayer

Take time out of your day to gather the family together and pray a Memorial Day prayer. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops suggests the following prayer from Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers:

God of power and mercy, you destroy war and put down earthly pride. Banish violence from our midst and wipe away our tears, that we may all deserve to be called your sons and daughters. Keep in your mercy those men and women who have died in the cause of freedom and bring them safely into your kingdom of justice and peace. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

<http://catholicdigest.com/faith/prayer/201704-24five-way-to-observe-memorial-day/>

FATHER SCOTT CELEBRATES 18 YEARS AS A PRIEST-MAY 25



Father Scott Woods can best be described as “A Man after God’s Own Heart!” His love of God is exemplified in his everyday life of dedicated service to the community. His sole focus is to build the Kingdom of God by serving the people of God and living a holy life.

Father Scott was born and raised in Washington, DC. At the age of 3, he knew that he wanted to be a priest. He attended Archbishop Carroll High School where he was converted to Catholicism.

In 1998, he obtained his bachelor’s degrees in Philosophy and Theology from the University of Scranton. Father Scott attended Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg MD, where he graduated with a master’s degree in Divinity. In 2002, his dream was realized when he was ordained a priest. Since that time, Father Scott’s holy and selfless life of service has clearly demonstrated that he is “A MAN AFTER GOD’S OWN HEART!”

Father Scott is the pastor of both St. Peter Claver and St. Cecilia Catholic Churches in St. Mary’s County, MD. At these parishes, he is lovingly referred to as the “Teacher Preacher” because he teaches and preaches the Word of God with great love, enthusiasm, and practical application to today’s world. As a result of his example, guidance, and leadership, Father Scott and his parishes are growing in faith and service!

Father Scott also serves as the Chaplain to the Catholic community at St. Mary’s College in Historic St. Mary’s City, MD. Under his direct guidance and through the leadership of his youth ministers, the population of active Catholic college students has grown significantly and so has their outreach to the local community.

Father Scott has been the Chaplain of St. Mary’s Ryken (SMR) High School in Leonardtown, MD since 2012. There, Father Scott began a spiritual direction program, which now serves over 225 students. In creating this program, he has also influenced a dozen priests from the Tri-County area to also provide spiritual direction and daily mass to the students. All from the vision of one man, Father Scott, many have been impacted.

Work at the Archdiocese of Washington (ADW) level continues to be required of Father Scott as well. He is an Assistant Vocations Director. Under his spiritual direction, more men and women than ever before from the local Southern Maryland geographic areas and parishes are considering and/or entering religious vocations.

WE PRAISE GOD FOR FATHER SCOTT! WE PRAY TO GOD THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO GRANT FATHER SCOTT WISDOM, HEALTH AND JOY!
