So, He told them, “Let us go on to the nearby villages Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, “Everyone is looking for you.” He told them, “Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose, have I come.”

So, he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

The Gospel of Mark is accepted by the majority of scholars as the first to be written in the late 60’s, most likely in Rome. Mark’s primary purpose was to strengthen his community’s faith in Jesus as the Christ, the resurrected Son of God.

From the first chapters, we get a sense of urgency reflected in Mark’s use of the word “immediately.” He does not elaborate when describing an event, but includes the most important facts.

For example, in today's text, he mentions that Jesus withdrew to a deserted place to highlight the continuity of his faith journey. Also, he moves from an individual miracle (Peter’s mother-in-law), to the cure of “many who were sick.”

Jesus does not want the demons to reveal his identity. In Mark’s Gospel, anytime that Jesus performs a miracle, he instructs the person “not to say anything.” This is known as the “messianic secret.”

Jesus did not want anyone to believe in the Messiah until they could understand the full extent of his mission. Miracles and healing were not enough! Mark’s Jesus will reveal himself as Messiah by being powerless on the cross.

Today’s reading offers three significant messages:

1. Jesus does not stay in a village after he shows miraculous powers because he knows that these signs are the only reason people are following him.
2. He continues to preach everywhere hoping that his followers will accept his way of suffering along with his miraculous works.
3. Jesus does not want to be an idolized miracle worker!

For our shared or personal reflection: After a brief pause for silent reflection share your answers, ideas, or feelings.

1. How is my faith in Jesus during this time of war in the Middle East and economic crises at home? Do I believe both in times of suffering and of prosperity?
2. Do I, like Jesus, withdraw to a quiet place to put my priorities in order and to remember who I really am and what my mission is?

Suggested readings: Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraphs 1504; 2602.

**SECOND COLLECTIONS DURING FEBRUARY 2021**

- **17** Ash Wednesday Church in the Developing World
- **21** First District Catholic Aid Society
**WE INTERCEDE IN PRAYER FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS AND THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED US TO PRAY FOR THEM:**
- Matt Allen; Judson “Mark” Barnes; Wayne Barnes; Claudette Bennett; Anita Birdine; Stephanie Bowman; Eric Briscoe; Louise Briscoe; Zsa Zsa Brown; Bertrille Bryan; Eva Butler; Tammy Campbell; Geraldine Carroll; Catherine Carter; John Carter; Chris Cassagnol; Cassagnol; Shelly Cenci; Brenda Chase; Sherman Hewlett; Michael Chase; Kirk Crafton; Yvonne Cutchember; Nolan Davidson; Helena Dutch; Daniel Gant; James Gant; Jessica Goldring; Virginia Harristant; Janice Hewlett; Jimmie Hill; Ben Holt, Jr.; Sister Marilyn Hopewell; Thelma Jones; Willie Jones; Patti Lachkovic; Kitty Ludwig; Heaven McClane; Horace McClane, Jr.; Dianne McCombs; Arnold Moreland; Eleanor Moland; Vernicia Morgan; Raquel Orevillo; Angie Prucha; Dinah Robinson; Charles L. Spears; Mary Spears; Robert Stasch; Catherine Taylor; Joseph Taylor; Vernon Thomas; Bernard Thompson; Estelle Thompson; Sylvia Thompson; Diana Townsend; Huntington Wiggins; Cheryl Price Williams; Charles Winters; Gail Yearick.

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND SUFFERING FROM COVID-19, especially those who are in isolation 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.**

**BIBLE STUDY IS AN EMAIL OR A PHONE CALL AWAY:**
The Spiritual Rosary Pilgrimage: A Biblical Journey through the LUMINOUS MYSTERIES in the Life of Christ with Mary

**FACILITATOR:** Dr. Gail Yearick  
**LOCATION:** Virtual (Internet) via Zoom  
**DAY & TIME:** Wednesday, 7:00-8:30PM  
**NEXT SESSION:** 2/10/21  
**Fifth Luminous Mystery:** The Institution of the Eucharist  
**REGISTER NOW:** Call (301) 872-5460 or send an email to st.peterclaver@verizon.net with the following information about each person to be registered: name, email address, cell number, and mailing address. You will receive a registration confirmation.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2021**

**Peaceful Repose of The Soul:**
FRANK S. DOVE, SR.  
Special Intentions:  
THE DOVE FAMILY

February 14: Margaret Taylor (Peaceful Repose)  
March 21: Mary Ann Hebb Wilkins (Peaceful Repose)  
April 11: Joseph Emerson and Mary Corbin (Peaceful Repose)  
The Corbin Family (Special Intentions)

**OFFERTORY EXCEED BUDGET**

**WE DID MEET OUR FINANCIAL GOAL LAST WEEK, AND WE PRAISE GOD!**

SPC remains blessed in your giving to support the running of the church and its ministries.

There are 5 ways to continue to tithe with your weekly offertory or gifts:
1) Mail; 2) Mobile App; 3) Church’s Website; 4) Electronic Check; and 5) Text

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.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION: 04/30/2021**

- Offertory Collection: $3,219.00
- Budgeted Offertory: $2,900.00
- OFFERTORY EXCEED BUDGET: +$319.00

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**The Spiritual Rosary Pilgrimage:**
A Biblical Journey through the LUMINOUS MYSTERIES in the Life of Christ with Mary

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**Tithes & Offering**

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**Weekly Offertory Collection:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Offertory Collection</th>
<th>04/30/2021</th>
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<tr>
<td>Offertory Collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budgeted Offertory</td>
<td>$2,900.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offertory Exceed Budget</td>
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While the numbers of you who can and/or choose to attend mass in person have been very small compared to Pre-COVID-19 in both of our parishes, it has been an amazing thing to see new faces appear in both parishes. One of these new faces is a young man who is now discerning the priesthood. Another is a couple who just got married and have just joined the parish. Additionally, others have started to come from other parishes to ours. Plus, this does not take into account the many people who participate online from all over the country by either watching the Mass as a whole or tuning in for just the homily. These recent plusses, however, do not change the sadness of missing so many of you in the pews during the COVID epidemic. Yet it is a reminder that the Lord is still bringing growth to our parishes, nonetheless. This is despite most parish activities needing to be canceled; without so much of the community being present to welcome visitors; without congregational singing being allowed; and without parish picnics and festivals. Yet still new people are coming. Not in vast numbers, but you and/or they will be present to participate online. I believe it is the faithfulness of all of you who pray for our parish and support it in all the ways that you can, by financially giving, by volunteering, and by your presence online and in person. What I know is hard for so many of you is that you cannot do what you used to do and what you want to do even now because of the dangers that exist. Yet your prayers are still bringing people to the doors of the church. And while we do not know how much longer this will last, we do know that the Lord is calling so many more people to come and worship Him.

Saint Augustine used to say that our hearts were made for the Lord and will not be satisfied until they are filled to the brim with his love. This happens in the reception of the sacraments. This happens in the community life of this parish. This happens in our prayers. **AND NO PANDEMIC CAN STOP IT.**

Yes, parish life is very different than before, but it has not ended. Yes, many feel they cannot yet return, but you and/or they will return. Yes, much divides us as a nation, but more unites us as the Body of Christ in this parish and worldwide. I pray for all of you every day, both those present in the church, on the grounds, and online. Please pray for me and the parish leaders and volunteers. Pray that we may truly allow the Lord to use us. The way He wills despite the dangers. Please keep praying for our church families; pray that they will continue to grow and show forth the love of the Lord to all people, both in the pews and online. There is much more work for us to do as Christians to bring more people in our families and communities to Jesus. Let us be on our way!

Your Brother and Father in Christ,
Father Scott Woods

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**POPE’S INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY**

**Violence Against Women**

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

**SECOND COLLECTIONS DURING FEBRUARY**

- 17 Church in the Developing World
- 21 First District Catholic Aid Society

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**YOUR CHURCH CALENDAR AT A GLANCE**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
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<td>Virtual Bible Study at 7:00PM</td>
<td>CPR Rosary @2PM; Dial-In #: 1-605-475-4700 Access #: 870115</td>
<td>Mass</td>
<td>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament @ 7:00AM @ SPC</td>
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**ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE OF MASSES**

- 7:30 AM St. Cecilia (English)
- 6:00 PM St. Peter Claver (English)
- 7:30 PM St. Peter Claver (Latin)
ASH WEDNESDAY DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES – A DIFFERENT WAY@SPC

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, priests have been directed not to make individual crosses upon the foreheads of its parishioners as has generally been done in the United States. Instead, they will say the formula for distributing the ashes once to everyone present. The priest “addresses all those present and only once says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal, applying it to all in general: ‘Repent, and believe in the Gospel,’ or ‘Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,’” the note said.

“The priest then cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask, and distributes the ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places. The Priest takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything.”

This method of sprinkling of ashes is actually the most traditional way of distributing ashes and is the way that has been done in other countries since the inception of the tradition.

Ash Wednesday falls on Feb. 17 this year.