



**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](mailto:st.peterclaver@verizon.net)**

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**SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020**

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**JOHN 9:1-41**

**ST. PETER CLAVER CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**REV. SCOTT WOODS, PASTOR**

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**WELCOME TO ST. PETER CLAVER ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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

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

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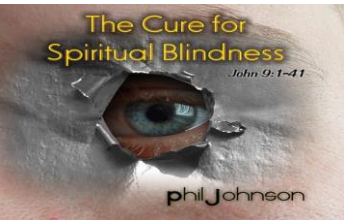
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**REV. SCOTT WOODS, PASTOR**

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***FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT***

***SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020***



As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him. ... While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva, and smeared the clay on his eyes, and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" —which means Sent—. So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbors and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said, "Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is," but others said, "No, he just looks like him." He said, "I am." So they said to him, "How were your eyes opened?" He replied, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes... So they said to the blind man again, "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." Now the Jews did not believe that he had been blind and gained his sight until they summoned the parents of the one who had gained his sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How does he now see?" His parents answered and said, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself." ...So a second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give God the praise! We know that this man is a sinner." He replied, "If he is a sinner, I do not know. One thing I do know is that I was blind and now I see."...

...The man answered and said to them, "This is what is so amazing, that you do not know where he is from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if one is devout and does his will, he listens to him. It is unheard of that anyone ever opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he would not be able to do anything." They answered and said to him, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" Then they threw him out. When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. Then Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not also blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, 'We see,' so your sin remains." **John 9: 1-41**

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**PASTOR'S KEYBOARD**



Recently, a Seminarian told me about a saint at Corona about whom I have never heard. Saint Corona was a mere 15 years old when she became Christian during Aurelius' persecution around 165 AD.

Corona was arrested and her feet tied to the tops of two bent palm trees. When the palms were let loose, she was torn apart. According to Roman martyr lore, this happened in today's Syria. She lived around 177 AD, and she is the patron saint against plagues!!! Her feast day is celebrated in Germany. Her feast day is May 14, according to the Roman Martyrology, the Catholic Church's official list of recognized saints and people who have been beatified.

I want to encourage you to ask, through the intercession of St Corona, that this modern-day plague be overcome quickly. Let us ask this every day. God places saints in our lives to aid and encourage us. While many may get sick and some may even die, none of us will have to endure what she endured for the love of God.

Yet, we do have to endure a lot. Therefore, we need to pray on our own, pray as a married couple, and pray as a family. Prayer truly does move mountains and can have a powerful impact in ways that we cannot see. Let us pray hard, trust much, and do our part to stay well and keep others safe.

Your Brother and Father in Christ,  
Fr Scott Woods

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**Parishioners of St. Peter Claver Church can choose to have their primary major focus on the coronavirus (COVID-19) or Jesus; they can have their major focus on what we cannot do rather than what we can do; they can have their major focus on what we do not have rather than what we do have. In general, they can focus on the negative rather than the positive. Which will you focus on?**

**WHAT WE CANNOT PARTAKE IN AS A PARISHIONER OF ST. PETER CLAVER:**

- Gospel Mass, Latin Mass, and Saturday Mass
- CCD
- In-Person Bible Study

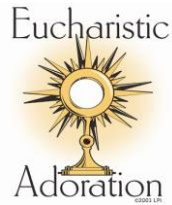
**WHAT WE CAN PARTAKE IN AS A PARISHIONER OF ST. PETER CLAVER:**

- **ROSARY ON THE CPR (CALLED TO PRAY THE ROSARY) LINE:** FRIDAYS at 2:00PM  
Toll Free Teleconference Line: *Dial-in #:* 1-605-475-4700 *Access #:* 870115
- **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT, HOMILY, ROSARY & CONFESSION:**  
SATURDAYS @9:00AM @SPC
- **CONFESSION:** By Appointment only (Call Father Scott at 301-512-1955)
- **SPIRITUAL DIRECTION:** By Appointment Only (Call Father Scott at 301-512-1955)
- **VISITATION AND ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** By Appointment Only (Call Father Scott at 301-512-1955)
- **STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN THE CEMETERY (ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS):** Available during the day; Google website when you are there; some common ones are: [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com) and [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)
- **MOTHER MARY LANGE CHAPEL VISITATION (ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS):** 24 hours 7 days each week

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Although masses can no longer be celebrated until further notice per directive of the Archbishop Bishop of the Archdiocese of Washington (ADW), Archbishop Wilton Gregory, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament can be held only if it had been held previously at the church. Because Father had held adoration at St. Peter Claver on each Saturday morning, he can continue to offer it for now if he deems it to be safe enough and if proper cleaning is provided afterwards.

Father plans to hold Eucharistic Adoration with a brief homily and rosary on every Saturday at 9:00AM at St. Peter Claver pending there are no contraindications based on updated information about the coronavirus. Confessions will be heard afterward. Currently, one can also attend Eucharistic Adoration at 6:30AM at St. Cecilia Church on Monday through Friday. A homily and rosary are not part of that prayer time.

You are asked not to attend if you have any symptoms of colds, allergies, or any virus. Upon arrival at the church, maintain social distances of at least 6 feet. There is plenty of room to spread out. Please avoid personal contact (e.g., hugs, kisses or handshakes). For the healthiest individuals who are in attendance, please consider staying after adoration to sanitize the church or ask Father about helping if it is decided not to do it at that time.

Please keep in mind that older people are more seriously impacted by coronavirus, so if you are 60 or older, you might consider avoiding any public gathering, even at church. Instead, you can, during that time, pray at home, asking God to join your prayers with those of the attendees at adoration at SPC.

For more information, please call the Parish Office at 301-872-5460.

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**ROSARY ON THE CPR (CALLED TO PRAY THE ROSARY) LINE:**  
FRIDAYS at 2:00PM

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

We are going on Year 3 of this prayer line. It has been maintained primarily by our seniors, Loretta Dove, Eva Butler, and Mary Spears. On rare occasions, only one of them has maintained it. If you call and no one comes on the line, be as faithful as they have been...pray anyway!

There is no better time than now, however, for you to get on the line. Set your alarm for 1:55PM.

Depending on who is leading the rosary, it usually starts with people expressing their personal intentions at 2PM. Of course, they always pray for SPC, Father and its parishioners. The Sorrowful Mysteries are prayed. They also might include the Mother Mary Lange Prayer for Beatification and two Prayers of Fatima:

1. O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those who are most in need of thy mercy.
2. My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love You! I ask pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love You!

They also may pray this intention after each decade:

- Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary: Pray for us.
- Mary, Queen of Peace. Pray for us.
- Mary, our loving mother: Pray for us.

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**WEEKLY OFFERTORY COLLECTION: 3/15/2020**

**Actual Offertory = \$95.00**

**Budgeted Offertory= \$2,900.00**

**BUDGET EXCEEDED ACTUAL = -\$2,805.00**



**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GIVING! Of course, we DID NOT MEET our financial goal this week. We were all caught off guard with Masses being shut down this past week.**

**But, as you know, St. Peter Claver Church itself is not shut down. We, as you who maintain your households, continue to have costs associated with facilities and staff to continue to serve our ministries.**

**Please continue to tithe and send it to the following address:**  
**St. Peter Claver Church**  
**PO Box 240**  
**St. Inigoes, MD 20684**

**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.**

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**“Family Meeting”**

Dedicated to St. Peter Claver Church Family  
By Janice Talbert Walthour: Copyright in 2005

You bring your babies; you bring your spirit.  
You bring your tired bodies,  
Your headaches, your heartaches.. and

You come, you come to Family Meeting,  
You come to church!

You come for a healing.  
You come for fulfillment.  
You come for a word from God.

You come to Family Meeting  
On [Sunday](#)  
You come to church!



**As you can see, Dr. Walthour wrote this poem in 2005...  
It still holds true today, especially for us who truly love St. Peter Claver!**

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**REFLECTION ON TODAY'S GOSPEL (JOHN 9: 1-41): FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/fourth-sunday-of-lent-cycle-a-sunday>

As we did last week, we are reading today from the Gospel of John. In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.



As in last week's Gospel about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, today's reading has many allusions to Baptism. The washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man's encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.

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**PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO:**

- **Pray for your seminarian who picture you took from the SEMINARIAN TREE.**
- **Read your WORD AMONG US devotional every day and make up the readings when you miss.**
- **Save your coins or bills to put money RICE BOWL: Have your family save money together to give to the needy.**
- **Fill your grocery bags for the local FOOD PANTRY; drop them off at St. Cecilia's Food Pantry on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00AM to Noon; then, call our Parish Office and let us know how many bags you delivered so that SPC document our contributions as asked by the Archdiocese.**



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**CELEBRATING THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD: MARCH 25, 2020**

The celebration of the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord commemorates the visit of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to inform her that she was to be the mother of our Savior.



After giving her consent to God's word, Mary conceives Jesus in her womb and becomes the mother of Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. God becomes incarnate in the womb of a woman, and "the Word became flesh" (John 1:14).

In modern times, this feast day has taken on special meaning in Respect Life ministry. Scientific advances have allowed us to confirm that life begins at conception. This solemnity helps us to recognize the gift of new life from its very beginning. It calls us to reflect on how we are to care for, protect, and welcome new life, as the Blessed Mother did for the Christ child.

In 2020, the Solemnity of the Annunciation also coincides with the 25th anniversary of the papal encyclical *Evangelium vitae* (The Gospel of Life). This Church teaching on the value and inviolability of every human life remains an indispensable source of truth for all people. Written by Pope St. John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae* was appropriately given in Rome on March 25, 1995. (<https://www.respectlife.org/march>)

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In his encyclical, "[Ecclesia de Eucharistia](#)" ("A Eucharistic Church"), in April 2003, Pope John Paul II encouraged the practice of **spiritual communion**, "which has been a wonderful part of Catholic life for centuries and recommended by saints who were masters of the spiritual life." Spiritual communion isn't as much a part of the Catholic vocabulary and consciousness as it was in the past, though it is just as real an opportunity for eucharistic grace as it ever was. ...

What is spiritual communion? **St. Thomas Aquinas** described it as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the most holy sacrament and lovingly embrace him" at a time or in circumstances when we cannot receive him in sacramental Communion...The opportunities for receiving spiritual communion are limitless, but particular circumstances make it appealing in our time. Spiritual communion needs no special instruction; it only requires the same disposition as the actual reception of the sacrament and a turning to Jesus with the heart....

No particular prayer or formula is required, though there are acts of spiritual communion in Catholic prayer books to help focus a proper intention. One of the most popular is that composed by **St. Alphonsus Liguori**:

*"My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament.*

*I love you above all things and I desire you with all my heart.*

*Since I cannot receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.*

*I embrace you as if you were already in my heart and unite myself to you completely.*

*Please do not let me ever be separated from you. Amen"*

<https://www.dolr.org/article/those-unable-receive-eucharist-can-have-spiritual-communion>

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