



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

23-25 NEWTOWN AVENUE | 718.278.1834

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? ... In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." - Lk 14:28, 33

The Mission of our parish is to serve our neighbors with Jesus, to pray in faith with Jesus, and to evangelize with Jesus, so "that all may have more abundant life." (John 10:10). The Word of God, the Sacraments, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church are the instruments and standards of this work of evangelization and faith formation.

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH MANAGER

Celeste Stewart, Ext. 111
cstewart@diobrook.org
church@mountcarmelastoria.org

RELIGIOUS ED COORDINATOR

Nelly Gutierrez, Ext. 114
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OFFICE RECEPTIONIST

Luis Sanchez Ext. 110
reception@mountcarmelastoria.org



PASTOR

Rev. Msgr. Cuong M. Pham
cpham@diobrook.org

PAROCHIAL VICARS

Rev. Michael McHugh
Rev. Joseph Hung Tran

PERMANENT DEACONS

Deacon Ruben Mendez
Deacon Jacob Rodriguez

RETIRED PRIESTS IN RESIDENCE

Rev. Ed Brady, Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Joseph Tan Pham
Rev. Msgr. John Harrington, K.H.S.

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Lucille Mascia
music@mountcarmelastoria.org

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 (*Saint Gregory the Great*)

5:00pm Marie Rose Nicholas, Carole Gigante,
Salomon Saul Mendoza, Rose Espina,
Flora & Aurelia Jimenez

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

(*Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time*)

8:00am John Pham
9:00am Madonna Di Loreto
9:30am Maria & Giorgio Blanda
11:00am The Living & Deceased Members of
Our Parish's Rosary Society
12:30pm Andrea Garzon & Ruben Murillo
(*35 Aniversario de Matrimonio*),
Rogelio Lira Perez & Rigoberto Viterbo Cabanas,
Maria Juana Gahuancela,
Gilma Javier (*1 Aniversario*)
5:00pm For the people of our parish

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 (*Labor Day*)

9:00am Gaspare Barretta

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

8:00am Michael Giandeo
12:00pm Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

8:00am Mario Carullo
12:00pm Mosler Family

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

8:00am Intentions of the Mothers Prayers Group
12:00pm Leonard Burton

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

8:00am Raffaele & Sabbia Carullo and Family
12:00pm Gina Bonici

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

8:00am Deceased Members of the Min & Suh Family
5:00pm Adelaida P. Guzman (*Birthday Anniversary*),
George Wolkiewicz, Antonella Graci,
Antonio (*Death Anniversary*), Carole Gigante

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

(*Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*)

8:00am For all the Deceased of 9/11
9:00am Edward Carlino & Elkin Yuen
9:30am Goretta Voe Kham
11:00am For all the Deceased of 9/11
12:30pm Rafaela Hidalgo, Toribio Suarez
5:00pm For the people of our parish

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Can't find a Mass Intention available? Consider donating a memorial gift for a loved one, both living or deceased. Please call the office for more information.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

September 4, 2022— There will be a second collection after communion for Catholic Universities. We thank you for your generosity.

September 11, 2022— We have all seen the painful images of devastation and heard of the deaths caused by the most recent floods in Kentucky. Our hearts and prayers go out to all those affected by this terrible disaster. In an effort to give aid and support to our brothers and sisters in need in Kentucky, Bishop Robert Brennan requests that each parish take up a second collection to be sent immediately for their direct assistance. Your compassion will go a long way in showing them the merciful face of God.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday	5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)
Sunday	Upper Church: 8:00 AM (English) 9:30 AM (Bi-lingual) 11:00 AM (English) 12:30 PM (Spanish) 3:00 PM (Vietnamese) 5:00 PM (English) Lower Church: 9:00 AM (Italian) 10:30 AM (Czech-Slovak)
Weekdays	8:00 AM and 12:00 Noon
Saturday	8:00 AM
First Fridays	7:30 PM (Spanish)
Holy Days	8:00 AM, 12 PM (English) and 7:30 PM (Bilingual)
Holidays	Only one Mass at 9:00 AM

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 3:30pm—4:30pm (lower church)

CHURCH HOURS:

Weekday: 7:00am—7:00pm
Weekend: 7:00am—6:00pm

OFFICE HOURS

Weekday:

9:00am—12:00 Noon & 1:00pm—8:30pm

Saturday:

9:00am—12:00 Noon

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY

28-46 44th St., Astoria, NY 11103
718.728.0724—www.stjosephsch.org
school@mountcarmelastoria.org

ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

As of August 29, 2022, 185 of our parishioners have pledged \$64,107 towards our goal of \$67,815. \$56,341 have been collected so far. If you are still considering your donation, please complete a donation envelope by the entrances of the church and or Text **DONATE** to **917-336-1255** today.

*A parte del 29 de Agosto, 2022, 185 de nuestros feligreses han prometido \$64,107 hacia nuestra meta de \$67,815. \$56,341 han sido colectados hasta ahora. Si todavía no han hecho su compromiso, complete un sobre de donación por las entradas de la iglesia o envíe hoy un mensaje de texto con la palabra **DONATE** al **917-336-1255**.*



**Annual Catholic
Appeal 2022**
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

E-GIVING OPPORTUNITY

When your summer travels take you away from Sunday services, eGiving lets you continue to support your parish and the ministries you cherish. You can sign up from your computer, smartphone or tablet, and plan your summer offertory by setting up a recurring donation.

eGiving sustains our parish through the busy summer months. You'll provide us with consistent support, even if you're away on a Sunday, so the programs, services, and ministries that mean so much to our community will never miss a beat. Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/NY370, or text "Enroll" to **(929) 254-3850**. Your generosity will go a long way.



TEXT-TO-GIVE

Another way to securely make a gift to our parish is by texting a dollar amount to **(929) 254-3850**. You will be prompted to complete a one-time registration providing your billing and contact information. After this registration, you can give any time by texting a dollar amount to the phone number above. Many parishioners and families have found this way of giving very easy, fast and efficient.



SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT

Your Weekly Church Offering

(Does not include offerings through Faith Direct)

Last weekend's collection: **\$5,416**

Same weekend last year: **\$3,391**

Faith Direct:

August 2021: **\$6,205** August 2022: **\$4,846**



DIOCESAN MARIAN PILGRIMAGE

WASHINGTON, DC – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2022

On Saturday, October 22, 2022, please join Bishop Robert Brennan, our pastor Msgr. Cuong Pham and the priests of our Diocese in a special Pilgrimage to THE BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, Washington, DC.

This one-day Pilgrimage is a spiritual journey to the nation's largest Shrine dedicated to our Blessed Mother. Several thousands of Catholic faithful from Brooklyn and Queens will be participating. There will be a multi-lingual Rosary service at 12 Noon, an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Confession in various languages, and a Solemn Concelebrated Mass at 3:00PM. With over 80 chapels and oratories dedicated to the Blessed Mother, built by peoples from around the world, pilgrims can appreciate the beauty of our Catholic faith and devotions and receive special graces and indulgences at the same time.

A comfortable coach bus with seats for 56 people will leave at 6AM from the front of our church. We will arrive at the Shrine at approximately 11AM. The entire cost is only \$70 per person, and this will include water, snacks and tip for the bus driver. Payment can be made by check written to "Our Lady of Mount Carmel" or by cash. Departure for the trip home will begin at 5PM and we will be back here by about 9PM.

A one-day trip like this can be exhausting, but please keep in mind that this is a spiritual Pilgrimage to honor Our Lady and the inconvenience of the trip itself is part of the sacrifice. Msgr. Cuong Pham and our priests will accompany the pilgrims with prayer, meditations, music, religious movies and fun activities during the bus trip. This Pilgrimage is open to everyone, except unaccompanied children.

The National Shrine has a cafeteria with modest prices. However, since the facilities are limited for such a large crowd, we would recommend that each participant bring his or her own lunch and non-perishable items such as juice boxes or fruits.

We look forward to welcoming you onboard with us. May this Pilgrimage be another occasion of grace and blessings to our parish family.

Msgr. Cuong M. Pham

-----TEAR OFF-----

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AT **718-278-1834** OR SEND AN EMAIL TO: media@mountcarmelastoria.org. PLEASE DETACH AND DROP OFF THIS SLIP AT THE OFFICE OR HAND IT TO ANY USHER. THE DEADLINE TO RESERVE A SEAT IS MONDAY, OCTOBER 10TH.

Full Name: _____ # of People _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____



PEREGRINAJE DIOCESANO MARIANO WASHINGTON, DC – SABADO, 22 DE OCTUBRE, 2022

En el 22 de octubre, 2022, únase al Obispo Robert Brennan, nuestro párroco, Monseñor Cuong Pham, y los sacerdotes de nuestra diócesis para un peregrinaje especial a LA BASILICA DEL SANTUARIO NACIONAL DE LA INMACULADA CONCEPCION, Washington, DC.

Este peregrinaje de un día es un viaje espiritual al Santuario mas grande de la nación dedicada a la Santísima Madre. Muchos miles de fieles Católicos de Brooklyn y Queens estarán participando. Habrá un Rosario multilingüe a las 12:00pm, una oportunidad de celebrar el Sacramento de la Confesión en varios lenguajes, y una misa Solemne Concelebrada a las 3:00pm. Con mas de 80 capillas y oratorios dedicados a Nuestra Santa Madre, construido por gente de todo el mundo, los peregrinos pueden apreciar la belleza de nuestra fe y devociones Católicas y recibir la gracia e indulgencias al mismo tiempo.

Un autobús cómodo con asientos para 56 personas saldrá de nuestra parroquia a las 6:00am. Llegaremos al Santuario aproximadamente a las 11:00am. El costo de el viaje es de \$70.00 por persona y este incluye agua, merienda y la propina para el conductor. El pago puede ser con un cheque escrito para "Our Lady of Mount Carmel" o pagando en efectivo en un sobre marcado "Peregrinaje Octubre 22," y lo puede dejar con un Ujier o en la oficina parroquial. El regreso a casa empezara a las 5:00pm y estaremos de regreso a la parroquia como 9:00pm.

Un viaje de un día puede ser exhausto pero tenga en mente que este es un peregrinaje espiritual para honrar a nuestra Señora y la inconveniencia del viaje es parte del sacrificio. Mons. Cuong Pham y nuestros sacerdotes estarán acompañando los peregrinos con oraciones, meditaciones, música, películas religiosas y varias actividades durante el viaje en el autobús. Este peregrinaje esta abierto a todos, excepto a menores sin la compañía de un adulto.

El Santuario Nacional tiene una cafetería con precios modestos, sin embargo, desde que las facilidades están limitadas por la cantidad de personas que van a llegar, les recomendamos que cada participante traiga su propio almuerzo y comida no-perecedera como cajitas de jugo o frutas.

Estamos felices de invitarlos y tenerlos con nosotros. Que este peregrinaje sea otro momento de gracia y bendición para nuestra familia parroquial.

Msgr. Cuong M. Pham

-----TEAR OFF-----

Para mas información, llame a la oficina parroquial al **718-278-1834** o mande una correo electrónico a **media@mountcarmelastoria.org**. **Por favor despegue esta parte del anuncio y déjelo en la oficina o con un ujier. La fecha limite es lunes, 10 de octubre.**

Nombre Completo: _____ # de personas _____

Numero de tel: _____ Email: _____

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Sunday, September 4

9:00am—1:00pm	Rosary Society	Lourdes A/B
10:00am—1:00pm	Czech Community	Lourdes A/B
10:00am—12:00pm	Spanish RCIA	Fatima+ Upper Room
10:30am—12:30pm	Cursillo	Guadalupe A/B
4:00pm—8:30pm	San Diego Alcalá	Guadalupe A/B

Tuesday, September 6

3:30pm—6:00pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	Fatima
5:30pm—6:45pm	Mariachi School	Balcony Rooms
6:00pm—9:00pm	Marriage Encounter	Guadalupe+ Fatima
6:00pm—7:00pm	Spanish Baptism Intruccion	Lourdes A/B
7:00pm—9:00pm	Coro #1	Nazareth

Thursday, September 8

7:00am—5:00pm	TYWLS	Gym
10:00am—11:30am	Legion of Mary	Guadalupe A/B

Friday, September 9

7:00am—4:00pm	TYWLS	Gym
5:00pm—10:00pm	CYO	Gym

Saturday, September 10

9:00am— 12:30pm	AA Meeting	Guadalupe A/B
9:00am—3:00pm	CYO	Gym
10:00am—12:00pm	Spanish Children's Choir	Upper Room
10:00am—1:00pm	Saturday Lessons in Faith	Lourdes A/B
4:00pm—7:30pm	Adult Sewing Group	Lourdes A/B
5:00pm—7:00pm	Ministerio de Consolacion	Nazareth
6:00pm—8:00pm	OLMC Balet	Gym

Sunday, September 11

8:00am—11:30pm	Italian Community	Lourdes A/B
10:00am—6:00pm	Cursillo Meeting	Gym
10:00am—1:00pm	Czech Community	Guadalupe A
10:00am—12:00pm	Spanish RCIA	Fatima+ Upper Room
10:30am—12:30pm	Cursillo	Guadalupe B
4:00pm—8:30pm	San Diego Alcalá	Guadalupe A

September 11, 2001 Remembrance Candlelight "Memorial of Music"

On Monday, September 12, 2022, at 7:00pm, a candlelight "Memorial of Music" will be held at McManus Memorial Park on 81st Street & Ditmars Blvd to remember, glorify and celebrate the thousands of innocent souls lost on September 11, 2001.

This remembrance service will feature the NYC Department of Correction Pipe Band, Port Authority of NY & NJ Pipe Band, Violinist Maria Vero, Frank Sinatra School of Music, and All Denomination Religious. Hosted by the United Community Civil Association together with the Port Authority of NY & NJ and the NYC Dept. of Correction. Complimentary candles will be distributed courtesy of Gus Antonopoulos.



CHURCH USHERS NEEDED

Our parish currently needs more men, women, and youth to serve as ushers at the English Sunday Masses. As the first faces that people see when coming to church, ushers serve as ministers of welcome and hospitality. Their assistance with the collection of the faithful's offerings is itself a special gift offered to the Lord. If you wish to serve God in this way, please leave your name and number for Father Mike at the parish office or speak to any one of our priests. Your joyful service will make a big difference in our parish's liturgy. A training workshop will be available for all volunteers in this meaningful ministry.

LABOR DAY— OFFICE CLOSING

The parish office will be closed on Monday, September 5, 2022 in honor of Labor Day. There will only be one Mass celebrated in the Upper Church at 9:00am. The office will re-open at 9:00 on Tuesday, September 6th, 2022. We wish everyone a safe and blessed holiday weekend.

HAPPY LABOR DAY



VOCATION DISCERNMENT OPPORTUNITIES

"None of you can be my disciple if you do not give up all of your possessions." Are you being called to discipleship as a priest, deacon or religious brother or sister? Contact the Vocation Office at 718.827.2454 or at vocations@diobrook.org

Follow us on Social Media:



@OLMCAstoria



SUPPORT FR. PJ'S MISSION

If you would like to donate money to support Fr. PJ's mission, you can give cash or make a check out to "Peter Nwadiukpa" placed in an envelope marked "Fr. PJ Mission" and drop it in the collection basket or at the church office. Thank you for your generosity.



PARISH REGISTRATION

We encourage all who worship with us to consider joining our parish officially. Registering will enable our parish to serve your spiritual needs better. Please return this form in the collection or drop it off at the parish office. Your active participation will strengthen your faith and your sense of belonging in God's family.

Registrarse oficialmente permitirá que nuestra parroquia les pueda servir sus necesidades espirituales mejor. Por favor devuelva este formulario en la colecta o déjelo en la oficina parroquial. Su participación activa fortalecerá su fe y su sentido de pertenencia en la familia de Dios.

Last Name/Apellido: _____

First Name/Nombre: _____

Spouse/Esposo(a): _____

Address/Dirección: _____

_____ ZIP _____

Telephone/Telefono: _____

E-mail/Correo electrónico: _____

PLEASE CHECK/ MARQUE SUS OPCIONES

New Registration Change of Name/Address

I prefer envelopes I prefer E-giving

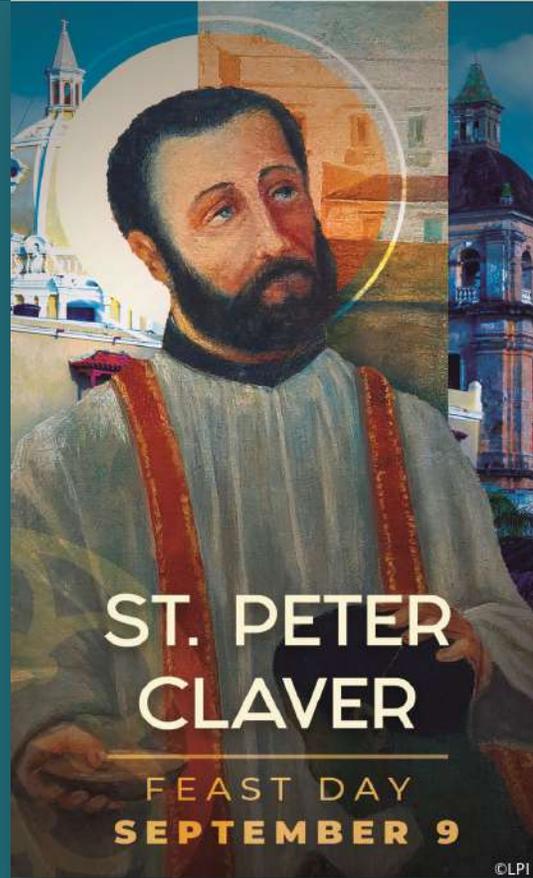
SATURDAYS OF REPARATION

"I promise to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation all those who, in order to make reparation to me, on the First Saturday of five successive months, go to confession, receive Holy Communion, say five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for a quarter of an hour, meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary." - Our Lady to Saint Lucia at Fatima.

Join us in making the Act of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the first five Saturdays of the month as follows:

September 3 & October 1

Mass at 8:00am in the lower church
(Rosary recitation following the Mass).



SAINT OF THE WEEK

Born in Catalonia Spain in 1580, Saint Peter Claver studied at first at the University of Barcelona and then joined the Jesuits. He became friends with fellow brother Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez who encouraged him to be a missionary in the New World. Accordingly, Saint Peter went to Cartagena, a city in present-day Columbia where he was ordained in 1615.

Cartagena was a center for the slave trade, and the young missionary knew where he could best serve God. He proclaimed himself, "the slave of the Negroes forever." As ships would arrive with their human cargo, Saint Peter and a group of interpreters would rush into the hold with food and medicines. When the slaves were moved to pens to await sale, the saint continued to work among them, communicating God's love with acts of generosity and teaching the Catholic faith. He also led missions in the interior, refusing the hospitality of plantation owners and preferring to stay in the slave quarters. He organized charitable societies and is said to have baptized and catechized more than 300,000 enslaved persons.

Saint Peter Claver died on September 8, 1654. He was canonized with his friend Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez in 1888, by Pope Leo XIII. He is the worldwide patron saint of African Americans and of enslaved peoples.

INFANT BAPTISM/BAUTISMO

Preparation Meeting
Tuesday—7:00pm—Institute

September 20, 2022
October 18, 2022
November 22, 2022

NO ENGLISH BAPTISMS IN DECEMBER

Baptism Ceremony
Sunday—2:00pm—Church

September 25, 2022
October 23, 2022
November 28, 2022

FECHAS DE BAUTISMOS EN ESPAÑOL

Reunión de Preparación
Martes—6:00pm—Instituto

Octubre 4, 2022
Noviembre 8, 2022
Diciembre 6, 2022

Ceremonia de Bautismo
Dom.—2:00pm—Iglesia

Octubre 9, 2022
Noviembre 13, 2022
Diciembre 11, 2022

SE NECESITAN UJIERES

Nuestra parroquia esta en necesidad de mas hombres, mujeres y jóvenes para servir como ujieres en las misas de los domingos en ingles. Como las primeras caras que la gente ve cuando entran a la iglesia, ujieres sirven como ministros de la bienvenida y de hospitalidad. Su asistencia con la colecta es un regalo especial que se ofrece al Señor.



Si usted desea servir a Dios en esta manera, por favor deje su nombre y teléfono en la oficina para el Padre Mike o hable con cualquiera de nuestros sacerdotes. Su servicio alegre hará una gran diferencia en la liturgia de la parroquia. Un entrenamiento estará disponible para todos los voluntarios en este ministerio valioso y satisfactorio.

SEGUNDA COLECTA

4 de septiembre, 2022— Habrá una segunda colecta después de la comunión para las universidades católicas. Gracias por su generosidad.

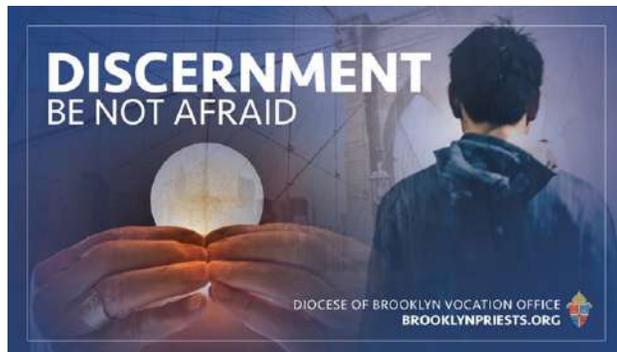
Septiembre 11, 2022— Todos hemos visto las imágenes de la devastación y escuchado de las muertes causadas por las inundaciones recientes en Kentucky. Nuestros corazones y oraciones van para todos los afectados por este terrible desastre. Para dar ayuda a nuestros hermanos y hermanas en Kentucky, el Obispo Robert Brennan pide que cada parroquia tome una segunda colecta para que se mande de inmediato para su asistencia directa. Su compasión llegara muy lejos en enseñándoles la cara bondadosa de Dios.

APOYANDO LA MISION DEL PADRE PJ

Si quisiera apoyar la misión del padre PJ, puede entregar su donación en efectivo o cheque en un sobre marcado "Misión del padre PJ" en la colecta o dejarlo en la oficina parroquial. Cheques deben hacerse al nombre "Peter Nwadiakpa." Gracias por su generosidad.

DISCERNIMIENTO VOCACIONAL

"Ninguno de ustedes puede ser mi discípulo si no renuncian a todas sus posesiones." Eres llamado hacer un discipulado como Sacerdote, Diacono, hermana o hermano religioso? Póngase en contacto con la Oficina de Vocaciones al 718.827.2454 o a vocations@diobrook.org.



OFICINA CERRADA— DIA DEL TRABAJO



LABOR DAY

La oficina parroquial estará cerrada el lunes 5 de septiembre 2022 en honor del Día del Labor. Habrá solo una misa en ingles a las 9:00am en la Iglesia de Arriba. La oficina volverá abrir el martes 6 de septiembre a las 9:00am. Les deseamos un buen y bendecido fin de semana feriado.

ADULTOS— RITO DE INICIACION

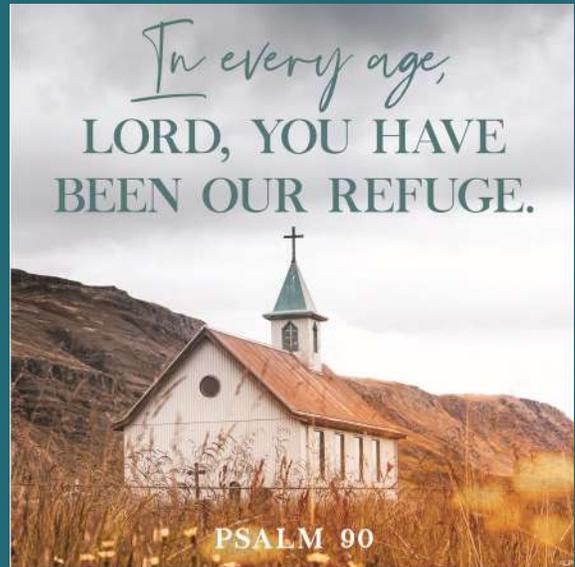
Si usted es un adulto mayor de 18 años que no ha recibido los Sacramentos del Bautismo, Comunión o

RICA
RITO DE INICIACION CRISTIANA

Confirmación, lo invitamos a considerar prepararse para recibir estos dones espirituales. La duración del curso de preparación son entre seis meses y un año, según el nivel de conocimiento y compromiso de cada persona con las enseñanzas y prácticas de la fe. Los participantes se reúnen con nuestro diácono y un equipo dedicado de instructores una vez a la semana durante una hora. Los Sacramentos serán conferidos el próximo año durante Semana Santa o Pentecostés aquí mismo en nuestra parroquia durante una Misa Solemne.

Por favor llame a la oficina parroquial para saber cómo puede participar en nuestro programa RICA. Si conoce a alguien que pueda beneficiarse de este programa, anímelo a llamar o hablar con uno de nuestros sacerdotes.

"Stand up straight and don't slouch!" Many a child has heard these words bellowed from their mother's lips. We need the perspective of others to help us understand when we are not walking as straight as we could be. God sends us the Holy Spirit to correct and guide us so that our paths through life can be straight. Without this assistance, how we see and understand ourselves and the world around us is incomplete. We will also lack the virtue of fortitude. It takes courage to listen to the Holy Spirit and devote ourselves to the task of discipleship. We have to put aside things that the world says are necessary and follow a path placed before us by Jesus Christ. Jesus is asking us to follow him. We must consider what we have to do to be free enough to do so. God needs us to show the world a complete picture of what life is meant to be, correct its vision and tell it to stand up straight!



WHY DO CATHOLICS LIGHT CANDLES IN CHURCH?

Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness - the darkness of grief, fear, and death.

The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration.

As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically "shining a light" on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning of these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints.

23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

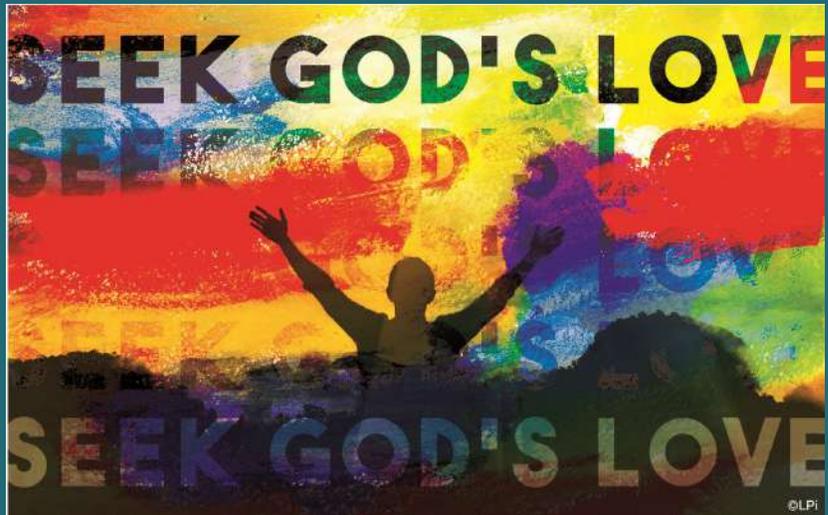


GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

What virtue is the cornerstone of discipleship? Love. Jesus preached about it, lived it, and summarized his greatest commandment featuring it. Love is in our DNA. To follow Jesus, then, is to follow the path of love. While this may appear to be an attractive and easy option, it most assuredly is not. Authentic love always comes with sacrifice. It is the complete giving of oneself to another. The sacrificial character of love always requires that we leave something aside and pursue something else. This is at the heart of self-denial. Love asks us to make choices that are often difficult.

There is a reason Jesus asks that the love of God come first. "Charity is the right attitude of mind which prefers nothing to the knowledge of God. If a man possesses any strong attachment to the things of this earth, he cannot possess true charity (St. Maximus the Confessor)." "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." A devoted disciple must be single-minded in her



quest for God. She cannot allow anyone or anything to have more power over her soul than God. When any earthly attachments become more important than Love, we can get ourselves into trouble.

The Gospel calls us to walk boldly into the darkness, confusion, and emptiness of the world clothed in the mantle of love. We are asked to walk with others on their journey, offering a supportive, healing, challenging, and faithful presence. Ours is not to judge.

To walk this sacrificial journey enlightened, believing in God's love

means that I must put myself aside and focus on the needs of others. "A sacrifice to be real must cost, must hurt, and must empty ourselves (St. Teresa of Calcutta)." Love helps us walk straight and focus to see things more clearly and help others to do so as well. Many folks struggle to find joy and meaning in life. People may simply need someone with the freedom to sit with them in their pain, so they don't feel so alone. Through acts of kindness, gestures of acceptance, and words of compassion, burdens can be and seek it above all other things!

WHERE'S THE SACRIFICE?

"It's not that I want you to do it. It's that I want you to want to do it."

If you're married or in a relationship, your partner has probably either said something like this to you or you have said it to them. If one of you hasn't said it, you have probably wanted to, and it's likely that a big argument or two was had where you dance around the sentiment, these exact words flashing in your mind like an old-time movie marquee.

The "it" never really matters much. Taking out the trash, painting the bedroom, traveling to your in-laws' for Christmas whatever the subject matter of the disagreement is, it's all just so much set dressing. The heart of the matter is the sacrifice and desire. That's what it all hangs on. Am I with a person who will sacrifice for me?

When Paul writes to Philemon that he is sending Onesimus to him, he says exactly this. He tells Philemon that he would prefer to keep Onesimus with him, but that he does not want to deprive Philemon both of Onesimus and the opportunity to make a sacrifice worthy in the sight of the Lord.

The point is not who gets to hang out with Onesimus. The point is, as it says in the Gospel, who is willing to carry his cross? Who is willing to renounce his possessions? Who is willing to do the good deed for the sake of the other?

God doesn't care that much about what we have to offer. He cares much more that we have the strength to offer whatever we have.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

PRAYING FOR THE SICK

Would you like the parish community to pray for your loved ones who are sick or suffering in our daily Mass? You may enroll their names in our Prayer List by calling the office. This is a meaningful way to comfort and console those who are most in need of healing and peace through the power of prayer. We are praying for Claire Kennedy & Rosa Polizzi.

PURGATORIAL SOCIETY

Remembering our deceased loved ones by having them prayed for at Mass on every first Friday of the month — the day traditionally dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, is a meaningful way to express our love. Those enrolled the Purgatorial Society will be remembered for a whole year. Please call the parish office for more information.

GIVING THE GIFT OF HEALING

Do you know someone who is carrying the grief of a past abortion? The pain & sorrow of abortion does not need to endure for a lifetime. A “Day of Prayer & Healing” offers the opportunity to experience the love and mercy of God and to respond to His invitation to begin the journey of healing the wound of abortion. For upcoming dates, locations, and confidential registration, or just to talk to a Sister, please call the Sisters of Life at 866.575.0075 or reach them by email at hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org.

CAR DONATIONS BENEFITTING OUR PARISH

When you donate your car, our parish may be able to share in the profits. For every car, truck or van, **running or not**, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul will give back to our Church \$100/\$2000 per vehicle. Maybe you don't have a vehicle, but a family member, friend or neighbor has an old or neglected vehicle that they would like to dispose of. Call the Association of Vincentian Charities at 718.491.2525 and mention the name of our parish.



FORMED®

WATCH NETWORK OF FREEDOM

Set in France at the beginning of World War II, this inspiring film narrates the heroic work of Sister Helene Studler, the Daughter of Charity who saved the lives of thousands of French refugees by preventing them from becoming prisoners of the Nazi forces, or freeing those who were captured. Among those she saved were many illustrious characters including the future Prime Minister of France, François de Mitterrand.



PICK OF THE WEEK

Sept 4, 2022

LEARN

FORMED NOW: THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

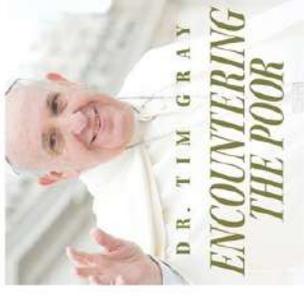


As we celebrate the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary this week, listen as Dr. Tim Gray and Dr. John Sehorn discuss the traditions surrounding Mary's life and how her life is a model of humility for Christians.

LISTEN

ENCOUNTERING THE POOR: BIBLICAL ROOTS FOR CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING BY TIM GRAY

Dr. Gray expounds upon the teachings of the Catholic Church surrounding social justice in light of Sacred Scripture. Discover how social justice in regards to the poor is not one small piece in the puzzle, but instead frames the entire mosaic of Scripture.



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