

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

23-25 NEWTOWN AVENUE, ASTORIA, NY 11102 | 718.278.1834

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2022**

## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



“Two men will be out in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left. Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.” - Mt 24:40-42

*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  
reled@mountcarmelastoria.org  
ccdmountcarmel@gmail.com

## 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

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

5:00pm Ms. Pear Odu, Luis Moral, Stephanie Hogan,  
Donald Medard, Pacita Roxas Supan

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27 (First Sunday of Advent)

8:00am Aniela & Wladyslaw Polkosnik  
9:00am Per i cari defunti delle famiglie Barretta,  
Carullo e Petruso  
9:30am Rosario Gil Luna & Lucia Hernandez Isidoro  
(Aniversario de Fallecimiento)  
11:00am Jake Babcock  
12:30pm Maria Antonia Gutierrez (XI Aniversario),  
Norberto Gutierrez (II Aniversario),  
Maria Cortez, Abraham, Vinizio &  
Ramon Alvarez, Nicolo Chiechi & Ana Vesia y  
en Accion de Gracias por Bendiciones Recibidas  
5:00pm For the people of our parish

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28

8:00am Mario Carullo  
12:00pm Celina Parra (Living—Birthday)

### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

8:00am Annette Brissette  
12:00pm Benjamin N. Nicasio

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30 (Saint Andrew the Apostle)

8:00am Pedro Bitancur, Sr. (4th Anniversary)  
12:00pm Antonina & Sebastino Leto

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1

8:00am Francesca Cho  
12:00pm Sr. Flora Marinelli

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

8:00am Purgatorial Society  
12:00pm Mary DePinto  
7:30pm En Accion de Gracias a Dios

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 (Saint Francis Xavier)

8:00am Elva & Oswaldo Amancha Velasco  
5:00pm Bernard Sabater, Ms. Pearl Odu, Maddalena  
& Rocco Sacramone, Antonio & Domenica  
Tenaglia and for all Souls in Purgatory

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 (Second Sunday of Advent)

8:00am U Angela  
9:00am San Nicola'  
9:30am The Living & Deceased Members of  
Our Parish's Rosary Society  
11:00am Rose Pinto  
12:30pm Said Sanchez, Abraham Alvarez, Carmen,  
Aiden & John Siguencia, Marina Chamorro &  
Luis Gerardo Matabanchoy, y por  
Jose Jaime Deaza Corredor  
5:00pm For the people of our parish

## MEMORIAL GIFTS THIS WEEK

The Altar Candles are being offered for  
**Mario Carullo**, requested by Nicoletta & Ralph DelGreco

HOPE  
First Week of Advent



## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday	5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)
Sunday	<b>Upper Church:</b> 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) <b>Lower Church:</b> 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

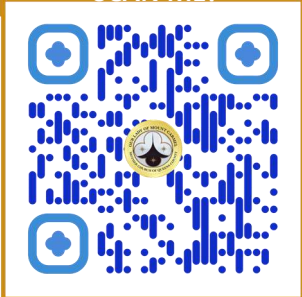
### ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY

28-46 44th St., Astoria, NY 11103

718.728.0724—[www.stjosephsch.org](http://www.stjosephsch.org)

[school@mountcarmelastoria.org](mailto:school@mountcarmelastoria.org)

NEW TO THE PARISH?  
SCAN ME!



Follow us on Social Media:

@OLMCAstoria



## DONATION MADE EASY

Advent is upon us. We light the season with hope, love, joy, and peace while we await the coming of our Lord! It's a time to prepare ourselves for Christ's arrival and reflect on how we serve Him. The parish ministries you support help us to spread Christ's love in our community and share His mercy with those in need. To sustain these works, I'd like to ask you to consider taking the next step in your stewardship by embracing eGiving.

Faith Direct is a secure eGiving option that lets you support the ministries you care about, even if you can't attend Mass. eGiving is a safe, simple solution. When you choose a recurring monthly gift, you provide our parish consistent support that lets us better plan and budget for programs that allow us to build God's kingdom throughout our community.

Please, prayerfully consider eGiving as a way for you to make sure that your faithful support will always make a difference. It is easy to do. Enroll today by visiting [Faith.direct/NY370](https://Faith.direct/NY370), or call Faith Direct at 866-507-8757, or send a text with the word "Enroll" to 929-254-3850. Thank you and may God bless your generosity.



## SECOND COLLECTIONS

**December 4, 2022**— There will be a second collection after communion for our parish maintenance. Your generosity enables us to keep and maintain the parish spaces and buildings in good condition for your use.

## ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

As of November 14, 2022, 197 of our parishioners have pledged \$70,957 towards our goal of \$67,815. \$64,921 have been collected so far. Any amount collected over the goal will be returned to the parish for projects that will benefit you. We are grateful to those who have made a pledge and donated, and we encourage everyone to participate in this worthy cause.

*A parte del 14 de noviembre, 2022, 197 de nuestros feligreses han prometido \$70,957 hacia nuestra meta de \$67,815. \$64,921 han sido colectados hasta ahora. Cualquier donación sobre la meta sera regresada a la parroquia para un proyecto que le beneficiara a usted. Estamos agradecidos a aquellos quienes han hecho una promesa y han donado, y alentamos a todos a participar en esta causa tan importante.*

Dear Brothers and sisters,

Last Sunday, at the 5PM Mass, I had the difficult task of announcing to our brothers and sisters who attend that Mass about the possibility that our parish will no longer be able to offer Mass at that time starting next year. This announcement may surprise many people, but in reality, the matter has been brought up for serious discussions more than a year ago in my meetings with our Parish Trustees and the Parish Pastoral Council. As your canonical representatives who serve as my consultants, these leaders have diligently considered all the pros and cons of such a decision. At their recent recommendation, I have communicated the news to the 5PM Sunday congregation, and today I would like to present it to the entire parish for your understanding and kind support.

I am grateful that the faithful who attend the 5PM Sunday Mass have shown a great sense of understanding. Many of them affirmed that they already knew for a long time that such a day would necessarily come. Some expressed a sense of sadness. As a pastor, I share in the most personal way all the intense emotions that you may be experiencing in this situation. I have not made this decision lightly, but have spent many days and nights praying over it, pondering over my own ability to meet the increasing pastoral and administrative responsibilities of our large, multi-ethnic parish. No decision of this type is going to please everybody. I appeal to your sense of empathy in considering our parish's situation that has led to this decision.

There are many reasons for this decision at this time. Most important among them, as you can understand, is the fact that our parish no longer has the number of active priests that we once had. Even with two parochial vicars who are assigned here to assist me as pastor, I still have to personally carry out most administrative, sacramental and pastoral duties in the parish. Out of respect for the health of our retired, elderly priests, I cannot depend on them to provide coverage when I am unable to attend to many tasks at the same time. Unlike most ordinary persons, we priests live and work in the same place, and are on call 24/7, especially from Friday through Monday when the parish is most busy. For me personally, celebrating a third or fourth Mass on Sunday, each in a different language, and meeting and addressing spiritual needs of hundreds of people in between, has proven to be a superhuman task. As a pastor, I desire to meet and greet all parishioners who come to our nine weekend Masses, at least before and after each Mass, but it has not been possible as often as I would like for the 5PM Sunday congregation. This is something that weighs heavily in my heart every week.

From our observations during the past year, attendance at the weekly 5PM Sunday Mass is sporadic, with numbers ranging from 30 to over 50 persons, most of whom come from the wider community beyond the confines of our parish. Bishop Ray Chappetto, who has frequently come to assist with that Mass, observes that even the congregation there seems to change every week. Now that Bishop Ray is no longer able to come, I have had difficulty looking for a priest who can come to help us, not only with that Mass, but also with the Italian, Bilingual and Spanish Mass in the morning. In addition, there has been a frequent lack of Altar Servers, Lectors and Ushers at the 5PM Sunday Mass due to a general lack of commitment of volunteers. This has made it difficult for our young sacristan who at times is called upon at the last minute to be an emergency Altar Server, Lector or Usher. Our sacristan already puts in a 12 hour day from 7AM through 7PM which involves a lot of other duties that they are responsible for.

With a view towards pulling our resources together in a better way, and providing the best spiritual and pastoral services to you, I sincerely ask for your patience, understanding and support as we move forward with this plan. In the end, I believe this change will enable us to focus on uplifting liturgies, not keeping them merely for the sake of convenience. For the very few people who cannot attend the 5PM Vigil Mass on Saturday, or any other Mass on Sunday, I am happy to announce that there is still a 5PM English Mass that you can attend at Most Precious Blood parish which is nearby. It would be very encouraging to me if you would consider attending any of our eight other weekend Masses.

I will continue to keep you informed of the situation. This is a task that no pastor would want to undertake, but it is necessary for the good of the parish and her ministers. The upcoming 2023 Mass Book will reflect this change. Please keep me in your prayers as I continue to seek ways to serve you better.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

***Msgr. Cuong M. Pham***

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,

El domingo pasado, en la misa de las 5pm, tuve la difícil tarea de anunciar a nuestros hermanos y hermanas que asisten a esa misa sobre la posibilidad de que nuestra parroquia ya no pueda ofrecer misa en ese momento a partir del próximo año. Este anuncio puede sorprender a muchas personas, pero en realidad, el asunto ha sido un tema de seria discusión hace más de un año en mis reuniones con nuestros Síndicos Parroquiales y el Consejo Pastoral. Como sus representantes canónicos que sirven como mis consultores, estos líderes han considerado diligentemente todos los pros y los contras de tal decisión. Por recomendación reciente, he comunicado la noticia a la congregación dominical de las 5pm y hoy me gustaría presentársela a toda la parroquia para su comprensión y amable apoyo.

Estoy agradecido de que los fieles que asisten a la misa dominical de las 5pm hayan demostrado un gran sentido de comprensión. Muchos de ellos afirmaron que ya sabían desde hace mucho tiempo que ese día necesariamente llegaría. Algunos expresaron un sentimiento de tristeza. Como pastor, comparto de la manera más personal todas las emociones intensas que puedes estar experimentando en esta situación. No tomé esta decisión a la ligera, sino que pasé muchos días y noches orando al respecto, reflexionando sobre mi propia capacidad para cumplir con las crecientes responsabilidades pastorales y administrativas de nuestra gran parroquia multi-étnica. Ninguna decisión de este tipo va a complacer a todos. Les pido su empatía al considerar la situación de nuestra parroquia que ha llevado a esta decisión.

Hay muchas razones para esta decisión en este momento. El más importante de ellos, como pueden comprender, es el hecho de que nuestra parroquia ya no tiene el número de sacerdotes activos que alguna vez tuvimos. Incluso con dos vicarios parroquiales asignados aquí para ayudarme como párroco, todavía tengo que llevar a cabo personalmente la mayoría de los deberes administrativos, sacramentales y pastorales de la parroquia. Por respeto a la salud de nuestros sacerdotes ancianos jubilados, no puedo depender de ellos para brindar cobertura cuando no puedo atender muchas tareas al mismo tiempo. A diferencia de la mayoría de las personas comunes, nosotros los sacerdotes vivimos y trabajamos en el mismo lugar, y estamos disponibles las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana, especialmente de viernes a lunes cuando la parroquia está más ocupada. Para mí personalmente, celebrar una tercera o cuarta misa los domingos, cada una en un idioma diferente, y satisfacer y atender las necesidades espirituales de cientos de personas en el medio, ha demostrado ser una tarea sobre-humana. Como párroco, deseo conocer y saludar a todos los feligreses que asisten a nuestras nueve misas en el fin de semana, al menos antes y después de cada misa, pero no ha sido posible con tanta frecuencia como me gustaría para la congregación dominical de las 5pm. Esto es algo que pesa mucho en mi corazón cada semana.

Según nuestras observaciones durante el año pasado, la asistencia a la Misa dominical semanal de las 5pm es esporádica, con números que van desde 30 a más de 50 personas, la mayoría de las cuales provienen de la comunidad más amplia, más allá de los límites de nuestra parroquia. El Obispo Ray Chappetto, que ha venido con frecuencia para ayudar en esa misa, observa que incluso la congregación parece cambiar cada semana. Ahora que el Obispo Ray ya no puede venir, he tenido dificultades para buscar un sacerdote que pueda venir a ayudarnos, no solo con esa misa, sino también con la misa en italiano, bilingüe y español durante la mañana. Además, ha habido una falta frecuente de monaguillos, lectores y ujieres en la misa dominical de las 5pm debido a la falta general de compromiso de los voluntarios. Esto ha hecho que sea difícil para nuestro joven sacristán, quien a veces es llamado en el último minuto para ser un monaguillo, lector o ujier de emergencia. Nuestro sacristán ya establece un día de 12 horas desde las 7am hasta las 7pm, lo que implica muchos otros deberes de los que son responsables.

Para reunir nuestros recursos de una mejor manera y brindarles los mejores servicios espirituales y pastorales, les pido sinceramente su paciencia, comprensión y apoyo mientras avanzamos con este plan. Al final, creo que este cambio nos permitirá centrarnos en liturgias edificantes, no mantenerlas simplemente por conveniencia. Para las pocas personas que no pueden asistir a la misa de vigilia de las 5pm los Sábados, o a cualquier otra misa el domingo, me complace anunciar que todavía hay una misa en inglés a las 5pm a la que pueden asistir en la parroquia de Preciosísima Sangre, que está cerca. Sería muy motivante para mí, si considerarían asistir a cualquiera de nuestras otras ocho misas de fin de semana.

Continuaré manteniéndolos informados de la situación. Esta es una tarea que ningún párroco quisiera emprender, pero es necesaria por el bien de la parroquia y de sus ministros. El Libro de Misas de 2023 reflejará este cambio. Por favor, manténganme en sus oraciones mientras continúo buscando formas de servirles mejor.

Devotamente suyo en Cristo,

**Mons. Cuong M. Pham**

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

### Sunday, November 27

9:00am—9:00pm	35th Anniversary Viet. Comm	Gym
10:00am—1:00pm	Czech Community	Lourdes A/B
10:00am—12:00pm	Spanish RCIA	Upper Room+ Fatima
10:30am—3:00pm	Cursillo	Guadalupe A/B
3:00pm—5:00pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	Nazareth
3:00pm—7:00pm	Cursillo— Reunion de Equipo	Guadalupe A/B

### Monday, November 28

7:00am—5:00pm	TYWLS	Gym
5:00pm—9:30pm	CYO	Gym
6:30pm—8:00pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	Fatima

### Tuesday, November 29

7:00am—4:00pm	TYWLS	Gym
3:30pm—6:00pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	Fatima
5:30pm—6:45pm	Mariachi School	Balcony Rooms
6:00pm—9:00pm	Marriage Encounter	Guadalupe+ Fatima
7:00pm—9:00pm	Coro #1	Nazareth

### Wednesday, November 30

7:00am—4:00pm	TYWLS	Gym
4:30pm—7:30pm	Religious Education	All Rooms
7:30pm—9:30pm	CYO	Gym
7:30pm—9:00pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	Lourdes B

### Thursday, December 1

7:00am—5:00pm	TYWLS	Gym
10:00am—11:30am	Legion of Mary	Guadalupe B
6:00pm—7:30pm	Religious Education	All Rooms
7:30pm—9:00pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	Guadalupe B

### Friday, December 2

7:00am—4:00pm	TYWLS	Gym
11:00am—1:00pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	Lourdes A/B
5:00pm—11:00pm	CYO	Gym
6:30pm—8:30pm	Youth Meeting	Guadalupe A/B
7:30pm—9:00pm	English RCIA	Fatima

### Saturday, December 3

8:00am—6:00pm	TYWLS— Senior Portrait	Gym
9:00am— 12:30pm	AA Meeting	Guadalupe A/B
10:00am—12:00pm	Spanish Children's Choir	Upper Room
10:00am—1:00pm	Saturday Lessons in Faith	Lourdes A/B
1:00pm—9:00pm	Rosary Society	Guadalupe A/B
4:00pm—9:00pm	Adult Sewing Group	Lourdes A/B
5:00pm—7:00pm	Ministerio de Consolacion	Nazareth
5:00pm—7:00pm	Bilingual Choir Practice	Fatima

### Sunday, December 4

9:00am—1:00pm	Rosary Society	Lourdes A/B
10:00am—1:00pm	Czech Community	Guadalupe A/B
10:00am—12:00pm	Spanish RCIA	Upper Room+ Fatima
10:30am—12:30pm	Cursillo	Gym
2:00pm—7:00pm	Children's Christmas Concert	Guadalupe A/B



## 2023 MASS BOOK OPENING— UPDATE

The 2023 Mass book will open Tuesday, December 6, 2022. Mass Intention Request sheets will be placed by the doors of the church the weekend of December 3 & 4, 2022. Mass requests will not be accepted prior to December 6th.



## VOCATION DISCERNMENT OPPORTUNITIES



**Fraternitas, December 17, 2022** — A group for middle school—high school aged boys dedicated to instilling Christian values in young men with the goal of fostering true Catholic gentlemen. The afternoon will include prayer, catechesis, sports, pizza lunch and Sunday Vigil Mass. Please view the forms that are available in the parish office for more information.

**Jeremiah Project, December 9-11, 2022**— A weekend retreat for young men 18 and older. An opportunity to discern a possible vocation to the priesthood through discussions, prayer and fraternity. Contact the vocations office at [vocations@diobrook.org](mailto:vocations@diobrook.org).

## 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. Enrollment is \$10 per name. Those enrolled the Purgatorial Society will be remembered for a whole year.

## 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. This week we are praying for Mateo Velazquez & Demetrio Fuentes

## ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS



**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Rosary Society  
FIRST ANNUAL  
CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER LUNCHEON  
Saturday, December 3, 2022  
2:00pm – 5:00pm in the Institute  
\$40.00 per person  
Hot Buffet Lunch including  
Wine and Beer will be served  
Assorted Gifts Baskets &  
50/50 will be raffled**



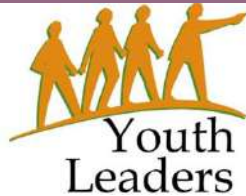
Payments in cash or check payable to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church will be accepted at the parish office. For more information, please call 718-278-1834 or email Neida C. Martinez at [media@mountcarmelastoria.org](mailto:media@mountcarmelastoria.org). All are invited. Bring a friend!

## ROSARY SOCIETY MEETING

The Rosary Society meeting will take place on **December 4, 2022** after the 9:30am Bilingual Mass. All ladies over 15 years old are invited to come to the Institute and join us to pray the rosary. Refreshments will be served. Please bring a friend! For more information, call the parish office.

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

We are a leadership team of young adults who enjoy working with teenagers and help them grow in youth ministry. Each Friday evening, we lead a Youth Night from 7:00pm to 8:30pm in the Institute for a group of high school teens who gather for prayer, friendship, fun activities. The goal of our involvement with the youth is to enhance their faith and spiritual commitment in our parish. While it is a sacrifice of time and talent, the effort is well worth the joy and enrichment. If you are a young adult who do not mind sharing faith and talents with vivacious teens, come join us in this exciting endeavor! Just stop by and see us in action this Friday evening. Contact Dayonel Mejia or Yolanda Lazo at 718-278-1834 for more information.



## INFANT BAPTISM/BAUTISMO

Preparation Meeting	Baptism Ceremony
<b>Tuesday—6:00pm—Institute</b>	<b>Saturday—2:00pm—Church</b>
<i>NO ENGLISH BAPTISMS IN DECEMBER 2022</i>	
January 24, 20223	January 28, 2023
February 21, 2023	February 25, 2023
March 21, 2023	March 25, 2023

## FECHAS DE BAUTISMOS EN ESPAÑOL

Reunión de Preparación	Ceremonia de Bautismo
<b>Martes—6:00pm—Instituto</b>	<b>Sabado—2:00pm—Iglesia</b>
6 de Diciembre, 2022	Dom. 11 de Diciembre, 2022
10 de Enero, 2023	14 de Enero, 2023
7 de Febrero, 2023	11 de Febrero, 2023
14 de Marzo, 2023	11 de Marzo

**Please Note:** Beginning January 2023, all Baptisms will be celebrated on Saturday at 12:00pm instead of Sunday. Both English & Spanish preparation meetings will take place on the scheduled dates. The schedule will be printed in the Bulletin as always. Please note that attending the preparation meeting is required for both parents and godparents.

**Por Favor Notar:** Empezando enero 2023, todos los bautizos seran celebrados los Sabados a las 12:00pm en vez de los Domingos. Las juntas de preparacion tomara lugar en las fechas describida en este boletin, como siempre. Asistencia a estas juntas de preparacion es mandatorio para los padres y padrinos.

## FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Spiritual writers speak of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as “the Mass held in contemplation.” As a way of encouraging devotion to the Eucharist, we invite all parishioners to come and spend some time before the Real Presence of the Lord on **Friday, December 2, 2022**. Exposition and Adoration will take place right after the 8:00am Mass and will conclude with Solemn Benediction before the start of the 12 Noon Mass.

## NEW SHRINES TO OUR LADY



We are grateful to those who have made a donation towards the new Shrines to Our Lady in our church vestibule. As you can see, those beautiful Shrines will be a lasting sign of love and devotion to the Mother of God in our church. We encourage every family to consider making a special donation for this specific cause in this time of thanksgiving. Simply write on the envelope that your gift is for the Shrines. Thank you.

## DISCERNIMIENTO VOCACIONAL

**Fraternitas, 17 de Diciembre, 2022** — Un grupo para jóvenes de secundaria y preparatoria, inculcando los valores Cristianos a ellos con la meta de fomentar caballeros Católicos verdaderos. La tarde incluye oración, catecismo, deporte, almuerzo de pizza y Misa Dominical de Vigilia. Por favor pida los formularios que se encuentran en la oficina parroquial.

**Jeremiah Project, 9-11 de Diciembre, 2022**— Retiro de fin de semana para jóvenes adultos mayores de 18 años. Es una oportunidad para discernir una posible vocación al sacerdocio por medio de discusión, oración y fraternidad.

## DONACIONES HECHO MAS FACIL

El Adviento está sobre nosotros. ¡Encendemos la temporada con esperanza, amor, alegría y paz mientras esperamos la venida de nuestro Señor! Es un tiempo para prepararnos para la llegada de Cristo y reflexionar sobre cómo le servimos. Los ministerios parroquiales que apoyan nos ayuda a difundir el amor de Cristo en nuestra comunidad y compartir su misericordia con los necesitados. Para sostener estos trabajos, me gustaría pedirle que considere adoptar “eGiving”, donaciones electronicas.

Faith Direct es una opción segura de eGiving que le permite apoyar los ministerios que le interesan, incluso si no puede asistir a Misa. Cuando elige una donación mensual recurrente, brinda a nuestra parroquia un apoyo constante que nos permite planificar y presupuestar mejor los programas que nos permiten construir el Reino de Dios en toda nuestra comunidad.

Por favor, considere en oración la donación electrónica como una forma de asegurarse de que su fiel apoyo siempre marque la diferencia. Es fácil de hacer. Inscríbase hoy visitando **Faith.direct/NY370**, o llame a Faith Direct al 866-507-8757, o envíe un mensaje de texto con la palabra "Inscribirse" al 929-254-3850. Gracias y que Dios bendiga su generosidad.

## NUEVAS IMAGENES DE NUESTRA SEÑORA



Estamos agradecidos a todos quienes han hecho una donación hacia las nuevas imagenes de Nuestra Señora en el vestíbulo de nuestra parroquia. Como pueden ver, estas imágenes serán una señal duradera de amor y devoción a la Madre de Dios en nuestra parroquia. Alentamos a cada familia hacer una donación especial para esta causa especifica en este tiempo de Acción de Gracias. Simplemente escriba en un sobre que su regalo es para las “Imágenes de Nuestra Señora.” Gracias.

## LIBRO DE MISAS DEL 2023—ACTUALIZADO

El libro para reservar sus intenciones de misa se abrirá el **martes 6 de diciembre, 2022**. Los formularios estarán disponibles por las entradas de la Iglesia el fin de semana del **3-4 de diciembre**. No se aceptaran formularios antes del **6 de diciembre**. Recuerde que el libro se llena rápidamente; no espere al ultimo momento para reservar sus misas para el año que viene.

## PROXIMAS SEGUNDA COLECTAS

**4 de diciembre**— Habrá una segunda colecta después de la comunión para nuestro mantenimiento parroquial. Su generosidad nos permite mantener los espacios y edificio en buena condición para su uso.

## ADULTOS— RITO DE INICIACION

Si usted es un adulto mayor de 18 años que no ha recibido los Sacramentos del Bautismo, Comunión o Confirmación, lo invitamos a considerar prepararse para recibir estos dones espirituales. Ya hemos comenzado las clases de adultos. 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. Si conoce a alguien que pueda beneficiarse de este programa, anímelo a llamar o hablar con uno de nuestros sacerdotes o con el Diacono Jacob Rodríguez en la oficina parroquial.

## SE BUSCAN LIDERES JUVENILES

Somos un equipo de lideres de jóvenes adultos quienes disfrutamos trabajar con los jóvenes y ayudarlos a crecer en el ministerio de jóvenes. Cada viernes por la tarde, tendemos una Noche de Jóvenes de 7:00pm—8:30pm en el Instituto para un grupo de jóvenes que estén en la preparatoria que se reúne para oración, amistad, y actividades divertidas. La meta de nuestra involucración con los jóvenes es para fortalecer su fe y compromiso espiritual con nuestra parroquia. Mientras si es un sacrificio de tiempo y talento, los esfuerzos vale la pena con alegría. Si eres un joven adulto que podría compartir su fe y talentos con otros jóvenes, únense a nosotros. Véanos este viernes en acción este viernes. Contacte Dayonel Mejia en la oficina.



Serving God By Serving Others



## GIVING TREE DONATION BOXES— 2022

15th annual “Giving Tree” Donation Boxes to help parishioners in need this Christmas season will start this weekend, November 26th and go through January 1st. One box will be located by the entrance on Newtown Avenue and the other will be by the elevator. Please donate: cash, checks (made out to Our Lady of Mount Carmel) or gift cards. Any donations made during the week, please bring to the Rectory. Thank you for your generosity.

## CAJAS DE DONACION DE ARBOLES— 2022

Nuestro anual decimoquinto árbol de donaciones para ayudar a los feligreses necesitados esta temporada navideña comenzarán este fin de semana, 26 de noviembre y se extenderán hasta el primero de enero. Una caja estará ubicada junto a la entrada de Newtown Avenue y la otra junto al ascensor. Por favor donar: efectivo, cheques (a nombre de Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo) o tarjetas de regalo. Cualquier donación durante la semana, por favor tráigala a la oficina en la rectoría. Gracias por su amabilidad y generosidad.

### CHRISTMAS AT OUR PARISH 2022 NAVIDAD EN NUESTA PARROQUIA 2022

Saturday, December 24th, 2022 at the 5pm Family Mass  
*Sábado 24 de Diciembre—5:00pm Misa Familiar*

#### “I’LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS, YOU CAN COUNT ON ME”

We need 12 parish youngsters to help prepare for a special **FAMILY-CHILDREN’S LITURGY AT 5:00pm ON CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24th**. We plan a living nativity scene. We need actors as angels, shepherds, and a Mary and Joseph.

Please return the form below to Nelly Gutierrez in the parish office or email it to [ccdmountcarmel@gmail.com](mailto:ccdmountcarmel@gmail.com) or [reled@mountcarmelastoria.org](mailto:reled@mountcarmelastoria.org) no later than Monday, December 12th, 2022.

Yes, we’ll be home for Christmas. Please enter our child’s name as a volunteer for Christmas Eve at 5:00pm.

Child’s Name/Nombre del Niño: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Escuela: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade/Grado: \_\_\_\_\_

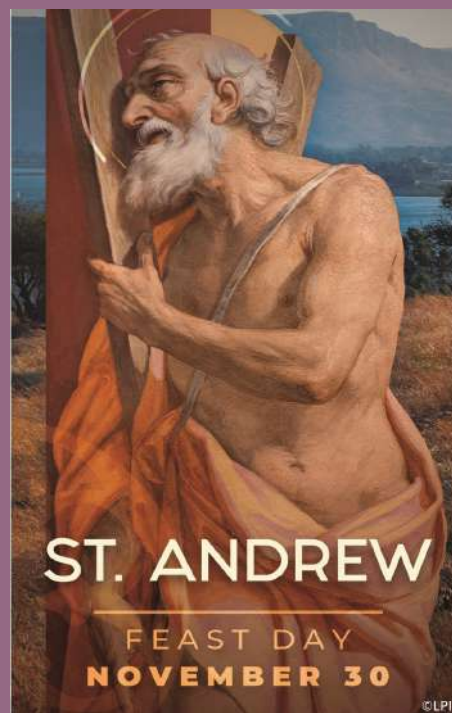
Your Address/Dirección: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## SAINT OF THE WEEK



Saint Andrew was a fisherman in Galilee, along with his brother, Peter, when they were called by Jesus to leave their boat and become fishers of men. John’s Gospel also places him as a follower of John the Baptist before he came to be one of Jesus’ twelve Disciples. Beyond the scant references in the Gospels, not much is known of Saint Andrew’s life. According to Christian tradition Saint Andrew, like many of his fellow Disciples, went out into Greece and Turkey to preach the Good News. A 4th-century account of the saint’s life tells of his martyrdom by crucifixion in Patras. Medieval accounts describe the cross used as X-shaped because Andrew said he was not worthy to die on the same style cross as Jesus.

Famously, Saint Andrew is the patron Saint of Scotland, and the country’s flag bearing the X-shaped cross is associated with him. Legends claim that the saint either traveled to Scotland to spread the Gospel or that his relics were brought there by St. Regulus who had a vision telling him to take the bones to the end of the earth. Regulus set out and was shipwrecked on the coast of Scotland. Today relics of St. Andrew which had been held by the Vatican are now at a shrine in Patras.

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

We can embrace and relish each moment of our lives as a sacred sacrament or nonchalantly and robotically attend to what life presents. We have our feet in two worlds. One is holy and sacred, and the other is profane and secular. Which one has the greater claim on us? To what do we devote most of our energy? We can easily be consumed with the particular demands and essentials of daily life: family, work, obligations, and the like, and we don't really notice anything more than what is right before us. We become masters at "doing" and neglect our need to "savor." Jesus reminds his friends that "as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. In those days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. They did not know until the flood came and carried them all away."

While certain things require our daily attention, we cannot become so consumed with them that we fail to see the larger picture of what is coming. For the Christian, Advent is the time to pause, reflect, and savor. It is a time to see life as a sacrament of the moment and not just an investment in secular interests, pleasures, and personal obligations. It is easy to get distracted, lazy, preoccupied, and tired. Apathy can quickly wreak havoc on the most dedicated of souls. Whatever we can do this Advent season to be more attentive, focused, alert, and watchful



will serve us well. It will make us eager and well-prepared to meet our Lord when he comes. It is certain that he will come.

Who made me? What is my purpose? What will happen to me when I die? These are pivotal questions that, in life's busyness, we hardly find time to ask and answer. They define who we are, and the answers we provide serve as guideposts and anchors in the seas of our lives. Advent is the perfect time to make friends with our souls. It is a time to perk ourselves up, open our eyes, ears, and hearts and seek God's presence in the simple moments of our lives. God is with us. Ask God to grant you a deeper appreciation for His presence and the gift of attentiveness.

## **THE CHURCH TEACHES THAT, THROUGH OUR BAPTISM, WE ARE MADE PRIEST, PROPHET, AND KING LIKE CHRIST. WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US TO BE PROPHETS IN THE WORLD TODAY?**

We are indeed sharers in the threefold mission of Christ. We live our "kingship" when we serve others in justice, work for the common good in society, and overcome sin in our own lives. Our "priestly" mission is lived when we unite our lives to Christ's sacrifice on the cross, offering them up as a gift of love. We are also called to be prophets. Our lives may not look like Isaiah and Jeremiah of old and perhaps desert living and locust eating like St. John the Baptist might feel out of reach but this doesn't nullify our invitation and obligation.

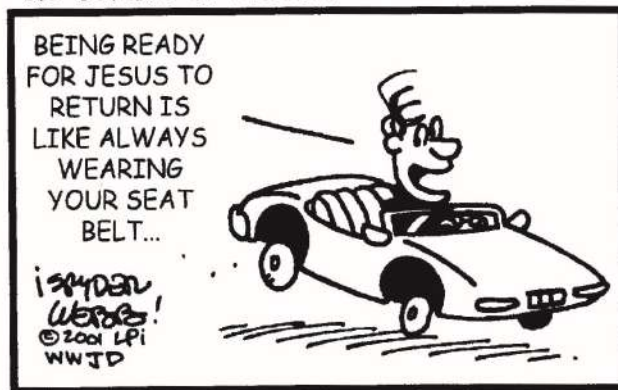
As baptized Christians, we have accepted the Gospel in faith. We're also called to proclaim the Gospel as well. This may mean by giving Christ-centered advice to another person or defending truth when it's threatened. It also means living our faith in deeds.

St. John Paul II writes that we are "called to allow the newness and the power of the Gospel to shine out every day in [our] family and social life" (On the Lay Members of Christ's Faithful, 14). A prophet points to a higher truth beyond himself or herself. We live prophetically when we treat others as Christ treated people and when we arrange our schedule to prioritize those to whom we have the greatest obligation, including our families, as well as the poor and vulnerable around us. We live prophetically when we think critically about the culture around us and we allow our faith to inform our public life.

Whether it is the surgeon performing an operation or the pilot directing a flight, one expects them to be alert. When we entrust our lives to someone, we presume that they will attend to us with the utmost care and vigilance. If we have this expectation of others, why would we not have it of ourselves? Our lives are precious vessels on an eternal journey. We can only stay afloat and on the course because of God's love and mercy. It is easy to get distracted, lazy, preoccupied, and tired. Apathy can wreak havoc on the most dedicated of souls. God's word transforms all that it touches, even a lukewarm heart. Let us seek God's grace this Advent season so that we can walk more fully in His light. Then, finding ourselves more attentive, focused, alert, and watchful, we will be eager and well-prepared to meet our Lord when He comes. Why would we not want to be ready, awake, and watchful for the One we have waited for so long?



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



IS CHRIST KING IN OUR HEARTS?

Some people hate surprise parties. There are those who are uncomfortable with a last-minute vacation or even an unexpected travel upgrade. If it wasn't part of the plan, it's a cause for consternation.

There is a temptation to view these folks as curmudgeonly sticks in the mud, obsessed with predictability. But I think if we're being honest, there's a little bit of the surprise-averse in all of us.

Deep within the very heart of the element of surprise is a kernel of shock. And shock, at the moment, can feel similar to trauma. If we reflect on the most traumatic occurrences of our lives - a loss, an accident, a calamity - it is likely that we will say this: "It was the shock more than anything that got to me." Grief or fear, those feelings were overwhelming as well, but they came later. In the first moment, all we knew was we were going about our lives on one path until we were thrust on a different one and then the whole future changed.

This is the natural rhythm of our life here on earth. We never know what is coming - which is to say, in a beautiful way, we always know what is coming. More importantly, we know Who is coming.

Like the early riser who sets the "pre-alarm" (the one on which he knows he's going to hit snooze just to take the edge off the disappointment of waking up), we are always being given a heads-up in Scripture. From the earliest prophecies of the Messiah to Jesus' reminders in the Gospel to the very last words of Revelations, God has communicated to His stewards: You know the time. The time is now. We are called to constant vigilance, perpetual renewal, and steadfast accountability.

In the end, the coming of Christ may be the only event in history that was a surprise, but not a shock - and so it will only be beautiful, even for those who hate surprise parties.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS