

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

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

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2022**

## THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



The time came for her to have her child and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. - Lk 2:6b-7

# OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

## PARISH MANAGER

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## OFFICE RECEPTIONIST

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## PASTOR

Rev. Msgr. Cuong M. Pham

## 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, DECEMBER 24 (Christmas Eve)

5:00pm Ernesto & Luisa Bertolotti  
7:00pm Maria del Rocio Garcia & Pedro Garcia Salas,  
Ruben Hernandez, Aurelia Lopez Lopez,  
Brenda Estrella Hernandez Lopez  
10:00pm Natale Forzano  
11:30pm Vietnamese Christmas Mass

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 (The Nativity of the Lord)

8:00am Girolamo Taormina  
9:00am Privata  
9:30am John Pham  
11:00am Gerlando Graci

#### THERE WILL BE NO SPANISH MASS

5:00pm For the people of our parish

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 26 (Saint Stephen)

9:00am Elvira Bitancur (Birthday Memorial)

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27 (Saint John)

8:00am Pearl Odu  
12:00pm Mosler Family

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28 (The Holy Innocents)

8:00am Guadalupe Rodriguez Saldaño  
12:00pm Ernst Pierre



### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29 (Saint Thomas Becket)

8:00am Guadalupe Rodriguez Saldaño  
12:00pm Sahade— Rest In Peace

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

#### (The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph)

8:00am For the Intentions of our  
Mothers Prayers Group  
12:00pm Lenny Barretta

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31 (Saint Sylvester I)

8:00am Pearl Odu  
5:00pm John Pham, Dionisia Belen Ocampo,  
Christopher Kambitsis, Eloina Garcia,  
Frances Smalls & Lisa Velazquez

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 (The Solemnity of the B.V.M)

8:00am Rev. Cornelius P. Chang O.S.B  
9:00am Bernardino & Margherita Petruso  
11:00am John Lanca  
12:30pm Fredesvinda Mena  
3:00pm For the people of our parish

## MEMORIAL GIFTS THIS WEEK



The Altar Candles are being offered for  
**Rocco, Maria & Filippo Di Rico**, requested by  
Ida del Greco



The Sanctuary Lamp is being offered for  
**Samantha Syldort (Living)**,  
by Adrienne Edma



The Altar Bread & Wine are being offered for  
**Gaspere Barretta, Vincenzo & Giuseppa  
Barretta & Raffaele & Sabbia Carullo**,  
by Ida Barretta

## MASS SCHEDULE

<b>Saturday</b>	5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)
<b>Sunday</b>	<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) <b>Lower Church:</b> 9:00 AM (Italian) 10:30 AM (Czech-Slovak)
<b>Weekdays</b>	8:00 AM and 12:00 Noon
<b>Saturday</b>	8:00 AM
<b>First Fridays</b>	7:30 PM (Spanish)
<b>Holy Days</b>	8:00 AM, 12 PM (English) and 7:30 PM (Bilingual)
<b>Holidays</b>	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

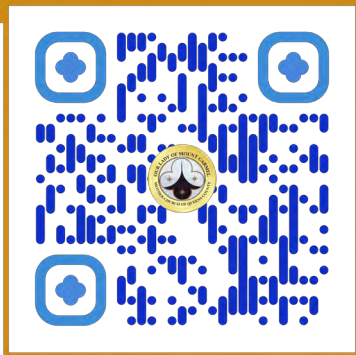
#### Saturday:

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)

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@OLMCAstoria



## DONATION MADE EASY

Christmas is upon us. We enter the season of life & light while awaiting the final return of our Lord! It's a time to savor & cherish Christ's presence not only in the manger, but also in one another. The parish ministries you support help us to show Christ's face in our community and share His love with those in need. To sustain these works, we would 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 for your generosity always.



## SECOND COLLECTIONS

**December 25, 2022**— There will be a second collection after Communion for Catholic Charities. Your donations give help to the various programs that help those in need all year round. Thank you for your generosity.

**January 8, 2022**— There will be a second collection after Communion for our Diocesan Missions. Your donations will enable us to continue sharing the Good News and carry on Christ's mission.

## ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

As of December 12, 2022, 200 of our parishioners have pledged \$73,252 towards our goal of \$67,815. \$70,036 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 12 de diciembre, 2022, 200 de nuestros feligreses han prometido \$73,252 hacia nuestra meta de \$67,815. \$70,036 han sido colectados hasta ahora. Cualquier donación sobre la meta será 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 in Christ,

*"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light"* (Isaiah 9:1). In the darkness of a world still groaning for the dawning of light, we are reminded again that Christ our Light has come. Christmas is time for us to pause and see this Light and feel its warmth. As we come to celebrate Christmas Masses together in our big parish family, I pray that the light of Christ may illumine our mind and fill our heart to truly appreciate the grandeur of these holy days.

The Scripture readings for the various Christmas liturgies all proclaim the same mystery: The Incarnation. God not only authors life and sustains it; He chooses to become one of us. In Jesus, we see "the image of the invisible God." The mystery of Christmas is a reminder that we are not alone. No matter our spiritual state, social status, physical well-being, God came to be with us. The Emmanuel, the "God with Us," shows up in the middle of our messy world to bring us a message of hope and offer us a better way of life through unmerited gifts of grace and salvation. In choosing to be born as a Child in a manger, God has identified completely with our humanity. Christmas proclaims that whatever the circumstances of our life right now; grief or joy, struggle or success, faith or doubt, love or betrayal, God has lived it himself in Christ, and He longs to live it with us.

Each year the celebration of Christ's birth includes so many cultural and family traditions that highlight the extraordinary mystery of the Incarnation. Examples of these traditions include the cherished customs of *Las Posadas* celebrated in our own parish by the Hispanic community on Christmas Eve. This elaborate re-enactment of the journey that Joseph and Mary made from Nazareth to Bethlehem, in search of a safe refuge where Mary could give birth to the Baby Jesus, is a powerful invitation to reflect upon the virtues of patience, hospitality, and charity, so needed in our world today where many cannot find welcome in their moment of need. Another marvelous parish tradition is the Christmas Concert, also on Christmas Eve, featuring our English Choir's live performance of sacred music in a variety of styles and languages. This much-anticipated event draws out the meaning of the Incarnation through the beauty of musical arts down the centuries. Another great tradition is the Christmas Pageant performed by the Religious Education children at the first Christmas Eve Mass in English, and the moving dramatization of the Christmas story, performed by children and youth at the Midnight Mass in Vietnamese. All these wonderful traditions, in addition to the now popular Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Blessing of the Outdoor Nativity Scene, are powerful moments that draw people into the spirit of the season and help them to appreciate the mystery of God becoming one with us. In most Catholic homes, Christmas would not be complete without some activity that reminds them about the reason for the season, from decorating a manger scene to preparing and exchanging gifts, etc. These and many other Christmas traditions help make the meaning of Christmas come alive. They can be the first motivation that bring certain people to church.

We often hear the words spoken or sung about being "home for Christmas." Christmas has a way of bringing to Church individuals and families who, for various reasons, have not been to Mass or the Sacraments for months or years. What a wonderful and grace-filled opportunity to put aside past differences and old habits and begin anew that relationship with the Lord and His Church community. Just like our own families, there is no perfect church family. But we need one another! Some of you may have been hurt at some point by a relationship or even a situation at church. Yet, your heart still knows that the Church never ceases to be your spiritual home. Most of you still attend Holy Mass faithfully despite all that imperfection. A few of you perhaps are just waiting for an invitation. I extend to all of you an open, grateful heart of welcome: Come home for Christmas! Together, may we grow in strength and grace to know and celebrate together God's presence in our midst.

Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas Season, and asking you to pray for your priests, for myself and my mother as we make a three-week trip to our homeland Vietnam after Christmas, I assure you of my remembrance at the Altar always.

Merry Christmas!!!

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

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

*“El pueblo que andaba en tinieblas vio una gran luz”* (Isaías 9:1). En la oscuridad de un mundo que todavía gime por el amanecer de la luz, se nos recuerda nuevamente que Cristo, nuestra Luz, ha venido. La Navidad es un tiempo para que hagamos una pausa y veamos esta Luz y sintamos su calor. Mientras venimos a celebrar Misas de Navidad juntos en nuestra gran familia parroquial, oro para que la luz de Cristo ilumine nuestras mentes y llene nuestros corazones para apreciar verdaderamente la grandeza de estos días santos.

Las lecturas bíblicas de las diversas liturgias navideñas proclaman todas el mismo misterio: la Encarnación. Dios no sólo crea la vida y la sustenta; Él elige convertirse en uno de nosotros. En Jesús vemos “la imagen del Dios invisible.” El misterio de la Navidad es un recordatorio de que no estamos solos. No importa nuestro estado espiritual, estatus social o bienestar físico, Dios vino a estar con nosotros. El Emmanuel, el “Dios con nosotros,” aparece en medio de nuestro desordenado mundo para traernos un mensaje de esperanza y ofrecernos una mejor forma de vida a través de dones inmerecidos de gracia y salvación. Al elegir nacer como Niño en un pesebre, Dios se ha identificado completamente con nuestra humanidad. La Navidad proclama que sean cuales sean las circunstancias de nuestra vida en este momento; pena o alegría, lucha o éxito, fe o duda, amor o traición, Dios mismo lo ha vivido en Cristo, y anhela vivirlo con nosotros.

Cada año, la celebración del nacimiento de Cristo incluye tantas tradiciones culturales y familiares que resaltan el extraordinario misterio de la Encarnación. Ejemplos de estas tradiciones incluyen las preciadas costumbres de Las Posadas celebradas en nuestra propia parroquia por la comunidad hispana en la víspera de Navidad. Esta elaborada recreación del viaje que hicieron José y María desde Nazaret a Belén, en busca de un refugio seguro donde María pudiera dar a luz al Niño Jesús, es una poderosa invitación a reflexionar sobre las virtudes de la paciencia, la hospitalidad y la caridad, tan necesaria en nuestro mundo de hoy, donde muchos no pueden encontrar acogida en su momento de necesidad. Otra maravillosa tradición parroquial es el Concierto de Navidad, también en Nochebuena, que presenta música sagrada en vivo presentado por nuestro Coro Americano en una variedad de estilos e idiomas. Este evento tan esperado extrae el significado de la Encarnación a través de la belleza de las artes musicales a lo largo de los siglos. Otra gran tradición es el Nacimiento en vivo realizado por los niños de Educación Religiosa en la primera Misa de Nochebuena en inglés, y la conmovedora dramatización de la historia de Navidad, interpretada por niños y jóvenes en la Misa vietnamita de medianoche. Todas estas maravillosas tradiciones, además de la ahora popular iluminación anual del árbol de Navidad y la bendición del pesebre al aire libre, son momentos poderosos que atraen a las personas al espíritu de la temporada y les ayudan a apreciar el misterio de Dios volviéndose uno con nosotros. En la mayoría de los hogares Católicos, la Navidad no estaría completa sin alguna actividad que les recuerde el motivo de la temporada, desde decorar un pesebre hasta preparar e intercambiar regalos, etc. Estas y muchas otras tradiciones navideñas ayudan a que el significado de la Navidad cobre vida. Pueden ser la primera motivación que lleve a ciertas personas a la iglesia.

A menudo escuchamos las palabras habladas o cantadas acerca de estar “en casa por Navidad.” La Navidad tiene una forma de traer a la Iglesia a personas y familias que, por diversas razones, no han asistido a Misa o a los Sacramentos durante meses o años. Qué oportunidad maravillosa y llena de gracia para dejar a un lado las diferencias pasadas y los viejos hábitos y comenzar de nuevo esa relación con el Señor y la comunidad de su Iglesia. Al igual que nuestras propias familias, no existe una familia de iglesia perfecta. ¡Pero nos necesitamos unos a otros! Algunos de ustedes pueden haber sido lastimados en algún momento por una relación o incluso por una situación en la iglesia. Sin embargo, su corazón todavía sabe que la Iglesia nunca deja de ser su hogar espiritual. La mayoría de ustedes todavía asiste fielmente a la Santa Misa a pesar de toda esa imperfección. Algunos de ustedes tal vez solo estén esperando una invitación. Les extiendo a todos un corazón abierto y agradecido de bienvenida: ¡Ven a casa por Navidad! Juntos podemos crecer en fuerza y gracia para conocer y celebrar juntos la presencia de Dios entre nosotros.

Deseándoles a todos una bendecida temporada Navideña, y pidiéndoles que oren por sus sacerdotes, por mí y por mi madre mientras hacemos un viaje de tres semanas a nuestra patria Vietnam después de Navidad, les aseguro recordarles en el Altar siempre.

Feliz Navidad!!!

**Mons. Cuong M. Pham**

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

### Sunday, December 25

10:00am—1:00pm Czech Community *Lourdes A/B*  
10:00am—12:00pm Spanish RCIA *Upper Room+ Fatima*  
10:30am—12:30pm Cursillo *Guadalupe A/B*

### Monday, December 26

12:30pm—3:30pm TYWLS *Gym*

### Tuesday, December 27

12:30pm—3:30pm TYWLS *Gym*  
3:30pm—6:00pm Porque Ser Catolico? *Fatima*  
5:00pm—9:00pm CYO *Gym*  
5:30pm—6:45pm Mariachi School *Balcony Rooms*  
6:00pm—9:00pm Marriage Encounter *Guadalupe+ Fatima*  
7:00pm—9:00pm Coro #1 *Nazareth*

### Wednesday, December 28

12:30pm—3:30pm TYWLS *Gym*  
7:30pm—9:30pm CYO *Gym*

### Thursday, December 29

10:00am—11:30am Legion of Mary *Lourdes B*  
12:30pm—3:30pm TYWLS *Gym*  
7:30pm—9:00pm CYO *Gym*

### Friday, December 30

12:30pm—3:30pm TYWLS *Gym*  
5:00pm—11:00pm CYO *Gym*  
6:30pm—8:30pm Youth Meeting *Guadalupe A/B*  
7:30pm—9:00pm English RCIA *Fatima*

### Saturday, December 31

10:00am—12:00pm Spanish Children's Choir *Upper Room*  
5:00pm—7:00pm Ministerio de Consolacion *Nazareth*  
5:00pm—7:00pm Bilingual Choir Practice *Fatima*

### Sunday, January 1

10:00am—1:00pm Czech Community *Lourdes A/B*  
10:00am—12:00pm Spanish RCIA *Upper Room+ Fatima*  
10:30am—12:30pm Cursillo *Guadalupe A/B*

## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Knights of Columbus Colon-Msgr. Higgins Council No. 309  
125th Anniversary Celebration  
Sunday, February 12, 2023

St. Francis of Assisi Church, 21-17 45th Street Astoria, NY 11105

Mass In Thanksgiving at 12:30pm  
Dinner at 2:00pm Msgr. Campbell Hall (Lower Church)  
Music, 50/50 Raffle | \$75 per Person  
RSVP January 27, 2023

For more information contact Boris Musich, 718-683-1051 or  
John Ketcham, 347-306-2366.

Make checks payable to "Colon-Msgr. Higgins Council 309" and mail to: Boris Musich, Financial Secretary 20-18 74th St., Apt. 2 East Elmhurst, NY, 11370. You may also send your payment via Zelle to [boris.musich@gmail.com](mailto:boris.musich@gmail.com).

## VOCATION DISCERNMENT OPPORTUNITIES



### **Fraternitas**

**January 21, 2023 —**

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**

**January 27—29, 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. Forms are available in the parish office or you may 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. We have enrolled Efrain Piana, Ermelando Quijano, Nelson Jorge, Eva Mae Tiglio, Maria Pastora Rodriguez, Carmena & Joseph Attard, Joseph Buttigieg, Doris Fenech, Dolores & Joseph Zahra.

## 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 Joanne Callahan. May they receive Christ's healing.

## THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to thank Father Hung Tran and his team of volunteers from the Hispanic and Vietnamese Communities who have worked very hard to plan, design and execute the spectacular decorations for Christmas this year, both inside and outside the Church. Their remarkable dedication and love for our parish is deeply appreciated by all, and their creativity and talents are truly extraordinary by all standards. God bless you Father Hung and your wonderful collaborators for making the Christmas Season so special for us. Congratulations on a work well done!!!

## CHRISTMAS TREE APPRECIATION

We would like to thank all those who have donated Christmas Trees to our parish this Christmas. Your generous donations have enabled us to realize the chosen theme of "Christ Our Light" through the creation of the Outdoor Manger Scene and the Gardens of Light around the Rectory. A special appreciation goes out to all the groups and ministries of our parish that have donated several trees in honor of their apostolates. Your memorialized loved ones will be remembered during this season of light and life.

## ROSARY SOCIETY MEETING

The next Rosary Society meeting, due to the holiday, will take place **on February 5, 2023** 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.

## RECTORY CLOSING

The parish office will be closed on Monday, December 26, 2022 & Monday, January 2, 2023 in observance of the Christmas & New Year holidays. The office will re-open on the Tuesday after Christmas, December 27, 2022 and on the Tuesday after New Years' Day, January 3, 2023.

## 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, January 6, 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.



## CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT



The choir is back and is preparing a Christmas concert which will take place on Saturday, December 24th, Christmas Eve, at 9:30pm in the Upper Church. It will feature the Mount Carmel string ensemble and the choir percussionists.

This concert of sacred music from the 15th to the 21st centuries, is sure to put all in the true spirit of the season. There will be a variety of styles, and in several languages. We are grateful for the return of this Mount Carmel Holiday tradition. Bring your family and friends to enjoy this joyful music. Admission is free & all are welcome. Christmas Mass immediately follows at 10:00pm.

## INFANT BAPTISM/BAUTISMO

### Preparation Meeting

**Tuesday—6:00pm—Institute**

### Baptism Ceremony

**Saturday—12:00pm—Church**

### NO ENGLISH BAPTISMS IN DECEMBER 2022

January 24, 20223

January 28, 2023

February 21, 2023

February 25, 2023

March 21, 2023

March 25, 2023

April 18, 2023

April 22, 2023

May 23, 2023

May 27, 2023

June 20, 2023

June 24, 2023

July 18, 2023

July 22, 2023

August 22, 2023

August 26, 2023

September 19, 2023

September 23, 2023

### FECHAS DE BAUTISMOS EN ESPAÑOL

#### Reunión de Preparación

**Martes—6:00pm—Instituto**

#### Ceremonia de Bautismo

**Sábado—12:00pm—Iglesia**

10 de Enero, 2023

14 de Enero, 2023

7 de Febrero, 2023

11 de Febrero, 2023

7 de Marzo, 2023

11 de Marzo, 2023

### NO HAY BAUTISMOS EN ABRIL

*Fecha de Bautizo para Mayo todavía No Anunciada*

6 de Junio, 2023

10 de Junio, 2023

3 de Julio, 2023 (Tentativo)

8 de Julio (Tentativo)

Agosto 8, 2023

Agosto 12, 2023

Septiembre 5, 2023

Septiembre 9, 2023

**Please Note:** Beginning January 2023, all Baptisms will be celebrated on Saturday at 12:00pm instead of Sunday. Please note that attending the preparation meeting is required for both parents and godparents.

**Por Favor Notar:** Empezando enero 2023, todos los bautizos serán celebrados los Sábados a las 12:00pm en vez de los Domingos. Asistencia a estas juntas de preparación es mandatorio para los padres y padrinos.

## GIVING TREE DONATION BOXES

Our 15th annual "Giving Tree" Donation Boxes to help parishioners in need this Christmas season are available through Sunday, January 1st. One box is 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 parish office. Thank you for making someone's Christmas brighter this year.



## CAJAS DE DONACION DE ARBOLES

Nuestro anual decimoquinto árbol de donaciones para ayudar a los feligreses necesitados esta temporada navideña están disponible hasta el domingo, 1 de enero. Una caja está 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 parroquial. Gracias por hacer la Navidad de alguien sea mas brillante esta año.



## DISCERNIMIENTO VOCACIONAL

**Fraternitas, 21 de enero, 2023** — 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, 27-29 de enero, 2023**— 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.

## GRACIAS Y FELICIDADES

Quisiéramos agradecer al Padre Hung y el equipo de voluntarios de las comunidades Hispánicas y Vietnamitas quienes trabajaron fuerte para planear, diseñar y ejecutar las decoraciones espectaculares para la Navidad este año por dentro y afuera de la Iglesia. Su dedicación y amor por la parroquia es profundamente apreciado por todos y su creatividad y talentos son verdaderamente extraordinario que excede las expectativas. Dios los bendiga, Padre Hung y tus colaboradores por hacer esta temporada Navideña tan especial para nosotros. Felicidades en un trabajo muy bien hecho!!!

Gracias

## PROXIMAS SEGUNDA COLECTAS

**25 de diciembre**— Habrá una segunda colecta después de la comunión para el apoyo hacia Caridades Católicas. Su generosidad ayudaran aquellos que son menos afortunados.

**8 de enero**— Habrá una segunda colecta después de la comunión para las misiones diocesanas. Su contribución sostendrá el trabajo de evangelización en nuestra propia diócesis.

## DONACIONES HECHO MAS FACIL

La navidad está sobre nosotros. ¡Comenzamos la temporada con alegría y paz mientras celebramos la venida de nuestro Señor! Es un tiempo para apreciar la presencia 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, nos gustaría pedirle que considere adoptar "eGiving", donaciones electrónicas.

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. Inscríbese 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 le bendiga por su generosidad.

## CONCIERTO NAVIDEÑO

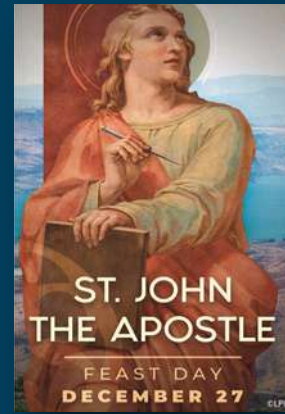
El Coro en Ingles esta preparando un bello Concierto de Música Navideña para el Sábado, 24 de diciembre, a las 9:30pm en la Iglesia de Arriba. Se presentara música en una variedad de estilos en varios idiomas. Traiga a su familia y amigos; todos están bienvenidos y el evento es gratis! Misa de Navidad en Ingles a las 10:00pm.

## APRECIACION POR LOS ARBOLES DONADOS

Quisiéramos agradecer a aquellos quienes han donado Arboles de Navidad a nuestra parroquia. Sus donaciones generosas nos han permitido realizar el tema de "Cristo Nuestra Luz" por medio de la creación del Belén afuera de la Iglesia y los Jardines de Luz al rededor de la Rectoría. Una apreciación especial a todos los grupos y ministerios de nuestra parroquia quien han donado varios arboles en honor a su apostolado. Su seres queridos memorializados serán recordados durante esta temporada de luz y vida.



The true meaning of Christmas is not found in the twinkling lights, the beautifully adorned trees, or the exchanged gifts. It is revealed when we find God along the way of our lives, especially when we feel displaced, desperate, and alone. Fleeing from their home, Joseph and Mary cautiously made their way through the uncertain, complex, and dark paths to a longed-for place of safety and welcome. Not sure where to lay their heads, they created makeshift preparations for the birth of their child, the Son of God. God, who always was, is, and will be, without beginning or end is the one constant in life who sees us through difficult and scary times. Jesus is the light, which enlightens everyone, and comes into the world to show us the truth. It is joyful good news that calms our fears and allows us to go forth into the nighttime of our lives, courageously. This is the meaning of Christmas. We are never lost or alone. God is with us, loving us and leading us where we need to be.



Saint John was one of the Twelve, part of Jesus' inner circle, among the few that witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of Jarius' Daughter, and the Agony in the garden at Gethsemane. He and his brother James were the sons of Zebedee and Salome. When Jesus called them, they left their father mending nets and followed him. Jesus called the brothers "Boanerges," meaning "sons of thunder" - they were passionate in their faith and Jesus had to rebuke them for their fiery zeal on more than one occasion. John, the younger brother, possibly the youngest disciple, was the only one present at Jesus' death.

Saint John the Apostle is traditionally thought to be the author of the fifth Gospel, the three Epistles of John, and the Book of Revelation. However, there has been some debate among scholars from antiquity to the present. Tradition also gives him the title Beloved Disciple and John's Gospel sees him seated next to Jesus at the last supper and the one to whom Jesus gives the care of Mary at the crucifixion.

Although Church tradition says that John survived the other disciples, living a long life, much of it is steeped in myth and legend. Some say he retired to Ephesus after the crucifixion with Mary and remained there until he died. But in other traditions he is more active. For a time he remained in Jerusalem with the other disciples, then founded churches in Asia Minor. In a legend of his persecution, during the reign of the Emperor Domitian, John is taken to Rome and thrown into a cauldron of boiling oil but preserved from death. He is then exiled to the island of Patmos where the Book of Revelation was written.

Most accounts agree that after his exile and the Assumption of Mary he returned to Ephesus where he died sometime after 98, during the reign of the Emperor Trajan.



### ST JOSEPH THE STEWARD

I think the real challenge of evangelization in the modern age is the reality that pretty much everyone has already heard of Jesus Christ - or, at least, they think they have.

To our 21st-century eyes, the angel who shared news of the birth of Jesus with the shepherds had an easy job. All he had to do was announce it.

Our baptism compels us to do the same to announce the coming of Christ over and over again, always and everywhere. But our audience is not a group of illiterate shepherds in ancient Judea. Our audience is a world that has heard so much about Jesus they often claim weariness of his name. So how do we do it? If we walk into a crowd of strangers and tell them we want to talk about Jesus, their reaction will probably be either "I already know about Jesus, thanks," or "I've heard of him, and based on the behavior of those who claim to follow him, I'm really not interested in hearing more."

Because in the end, our very lives are how we "announce his salvation" in the present day. We announce it in our actions to strangers. We announce it in our treatment of people who have wronged us. We announce it in our interactions with those who disagree with us.

How long had the coming of the Messiah been foretold to the Israelites? So long that, no doubt, many of them despaired of his coming altogether. So, God had to give them a sign: "You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Now we are the sign. The world has heard of Christ by now. But have they all seen him? It's our job to show them.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church**

*23-25 Newtown Avenue - Astoria, NY 11102*

**HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve**

5:00pm Family Mass

6:00pm Posadas

7:00pm *Misa En Español*

9:30pm Christmas Choir Concert

10:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

11:30pm Vietnamese Mass

**Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day**

8:00am, 9:30am (Bilingual), 11:00am English Masses

9:00am Italian Mass (Lower Church)

10:30am Czech Mass (Lower Church)

**NO 5:00PM MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY**

***NO HAY MISA 12:30PM EN ESPAÑOL EL DIA DE NAVIDAD***

**Saturday, December 31—New Year's Eve**

5:00pm English Mass

**Sunday, January 1, 2023—New Year's Day**

8:00am, 9:30am (Bilingual), 11:00am English Masses

9:00am Italian Mass (Lower Church)

10:30am Czech Mass (Lower Church)

12:30pm Spanish Mass

3:00pm Vietnamese Mass

All Masses are livestreamed and can be viewed online at  
[www.facebook.com/OLMCAstoria](http://www.facebook.com/OLMCAstoria) or [www.mountcarmelastoria.org](http://www.mountcarmelastoria.org)

*Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas  
and a very Happy, Healthy and prosperous New Year!*

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

*Fr. Mike McHugh, Fr. Hung Tran, Fr. Ed Brady, Fr. Joe Pham,  
Msgr. John Harrington and Deacons Ruben Mendez & Jacob Rodriguez*

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

As we age, time seems to pass more quickly. Years seemingly fly by as one holiday flows into the next, January quickly becomes December and life maintains its hectic pace. What do we accomplish in all of that busyness? Perhaps technology is responsible for some of the frenzy, keeping us isolated in our social media worlds, communicating through texts rather than in person, and always connected to world events. We're over stimulated in many ways by information, noise, opinions, and ideologies. Yet, we still find the time to decorate our homes, purchase gifts, and plan Christmas gatherings. We know, however, that the true meaning of Christmas is not found in twinkling lights, beautifully adorned trees, perfectly set tables or exchanged gifts. We are being called to something deeper and more authentic.

Christmas reminds us to look for God along the way of our lives and not get distracted by the illusions around us. Our world's complexity can leave us feeling displaced, desperate, alone, neglected, and unimportant. Joseph and Mary felt that way too. In the midst of all that captures and intrigues us in our self-created virtual worlds, is this longing for the anchor of faith to keep us grounded and make sense of it all. Only faith can give us the perspective to see what truly matters in life. We discover our divinely blessed humanity. The uncertain and challenging journey to Bethlehem gives way to the tender moments of birth



and its embrace. Christmas softens us and slows us down a bit. It shows us Jesus as the light who enlightens everyone. It shows us the truth.

The faith that comes from Christmas calms our fears and allows us to go into the nighttime of our lives courageously. We are never lost or alone. We need to stop and savor more of life's moments before they slip away in time. God is with us, loving us, and leading us where we need to be. God is born again and again in every soul willing to give birth to His presence. God connects us and provides us with a place where we feel safe and welcome: home. Merry Christmas!

## WHY DO WE GIVE GIFTS AT CHRISTMAS?

Great events in and of themselves are not tangible. They occur in life but leave no mark behind, nothing that someone could come across and know that something significant occurred. So we mark the event with monuments, holidays, gold watches or plaques, making a meaningful event tangible and memorable.

Gifts at Christmas do the same thing. They mark the occasion of the birth of Jesus, communicating a bit of the joy of the day by allowing us to be both giver and receiver. Gift-giving sets aside the day as special and different. The special foods, customs, decorations, and gifts all help focus our attention on the importance and meaning of the day and at the same time allow us to share personally in its joy and happiness.

In giving gifts, though, we can share in the meaning of Christmas in a significant way. We imitate God in sharing with others. We give a bit of ourselves to others in the gifts we give, just as God gives us the gift of his Son. No wonder we often say that the best gifts are those that come from the heart. Given in love, these presents are wrapped in the best covering of all.

