



## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

23-25 NEWTOWN AVENUE, ASTORIA, NY 11102 | 718.278.1834 | MOUNTCARMELASTORIA.ORG

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2023**

## 21<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." - Mt 16:19

# OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

## PARISH MANAGER

Celeste Stewart, Ext. 111  
[cstewart@diobrook.org](mailto:cstewart@diobrook.org)  
[church@mountcarmelastoria.org](http://church@mountcarmelastoria.org)



## RETIRED PRIESTS IN RESIDENCE

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

## RELIGIOUS ED COORDINATOR

Nelly Gutierrez, Ext. 114  
[reled@mountcarmelastoria.org](mailto:reled@mountcarmelastoria.org)  
[ccdmountcarmel@gmail.com](mailto:ccdmountcarmel@gmail.com)

## PASTOR

Rev. Msgr. Cuong M. Pham

## PAROCHIAL VICARS

Rev. Michael McHugh  
Rev. Sy Hung Tran

## MUSIC DIRECTOR

Lucille Mascia  
[music@mountcarmelastoria.org](mailto:music@mountcarmelastoria.org)

## OFFICE RECEPTIONIST

Luis Sanchez Ext. 110  
[reception@mountcarmelastoria.org](mailto:reception@mountcarmelastoria.org)

## PERMANENT DEACONS

Deacon Ruben Mendez  
Deacon Jacob Rodriguez

## Youth Minister

Dayonel Mejia

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

5:00pm Joseph Visconti, Ninfa & Domenico Mignano,  
Enrique & Victor Cevallos,  
Emmanuel Jhon Pierre (*For Healing*),  
60th Wedding Anniversary of  
Norman & Dellie Wagner

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

#### (*Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time*)

8:00am Conception De Los Santos  
9:00am Maria Santissima del Romittello Borgetto  
9:30am Flora Jimenez  
11:00am Carmela Moretti & Frank Todisco  
12:30pm Lucino Sanchez, Andrea Avelina Rodriguez  
(8 Aniversario), Por Sanacion de Estefany Fory  
& Carlos Cruz y Max Sterling & Emilia Sepulveda  
Yesenia Garcia (*Cumpleaños 15 Años*)  
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

### MONDAY, AUGUST 28 (*Saint Augustine*)

8:00am For the Unborn & Forgotten  
12:00pm Our Lady of Romitello

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 29

#### (*The Passion of Saint John the Baptist*)

8:00am Gloria & Clifford Henry, John Braut  
and Alain Labbe  
12:00pm Marie DiBiase

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30

8:00am Giuseppa & Vincenzo Barretta and Family  
12:00pm Mildred Ciangiola

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 31

8:00am Young Oung Min (*Death Anniversary*)  
12:00pm Javier Zapardiel

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

#### (*World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation*)

8:00am Purgatorial Society  
12:00pm Tracy O'Donnell  
7:30pm John Pham

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

8:00am Good Counsel of Church  
5:00pm Richard Losada

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

#### (*Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*)

8:00am Daw Angela  
9:00am Madonna Di aLoreto  
9:30am The Living & Deceased Members of  
Our Parish's Rosary Society  
11:00am Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
12:30pm Jorge Brenes & Rodrigo Chavarria Jr.,  
Norma Mera (*Celebrando sus 60 Cumpleaños*)  
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

## MOUNT CARMEL STRING TRIO

The Mount Carmel String Trio will be playing at the  
11:00am Mass on Sunday, August 27, 2023.

## SECOND COLLECTIONS

**August 26/27, 2023**— There will be a second collection  
after communion for our parish maintenance. Your  
donations enable us to maintain our parish spaces in good  
condition for your use.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS THIS WEEK



*The Altar Candles have been offered for*  
**Elío DiMonte,**  
*by Tony & Nina Carullo & Family*

## MASS SCHEDULE

<b>Saturday</b>	5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Main Church:</b> 8:00 AM (English) 9:30 AM (Bi-lingual) 11:00 AM (English) 12:30 PM (Spanish) 3:00 PM (Vietnamese) <b>Chapel:</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 (Bi-lingual)
<b>Holidays</b>	Only one Mass at 9:00 AM

### CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 3:30pm—4:30pm (Chapel)

### CHURCH HOURS:

Weekday: 7:00am—7:00pm

Saturday: 7:00am—6:00pm

Sunday: 7:00am—4:00pm

### 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)



## Annual Catholic Appeal 2023

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

***We would like to thank all those generous individuals who made a pledge to the 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal.***

We are asking each family to consider making a tax-deductible gift today. It is important that our parish make its goal of \$67,815 in order to fulfill our mission and provide for all who depend on your generosity and good will. As of August 21, 2023 we have a total of 175 parishioners who have pledged a total of \$61,717 from which \$54,422 has been collected.

Give your support today on behalf of our parish online at [annualcatholicappeal.org](http://annualcatholicappeal.org), scanning the QR code or texting "ACA" to 917-336-1255 or call 718-965-7375 ext. 1602 to have a pledge card mailed to your home.

Suggested giving amounts:

\$100 one-time gift

\$200 pledge = \$25 a month

\$350 pledge = \$10 a week

\$1,200 pledge = \$5 a day



## REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED DECEASED

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 currently enrolled **Kent Finley, Margarita Dostall, Victor Mayo, Lillie Bonanno, Mary Rocuzzo, Marco Rios, William Dsouza, John Dsouza, Sushila Dsouza, Carol Gigante, Mark Anthony Javier, Louis Jurilla and Aida Viera.**

## PRAYING FOR THE SICK

Prayer is one of the most powerful tools we have. It's a way for us to communicate with God and obtain His divine intervention. It can help sick people get well again and also gives us the strength in our own weakness and suffering. If you wish your loved ones who is sick to be prayed for at our daily Mass, kindly contact our parish office to place their names in our Prayer List. We are currently praying for **Victor Ejercito & Malou Reformina, John Bryam Guevara, Antonio Portugal, Gerry Viz Conde, Walmor Berretta J., Lisa Francis, Lynepte Caton, Fausto Silva.**

## WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT

Does not Include Electronic Donations by Faith Direct, which will be reported monthly.

**Last weekend's collection: \$4,588**

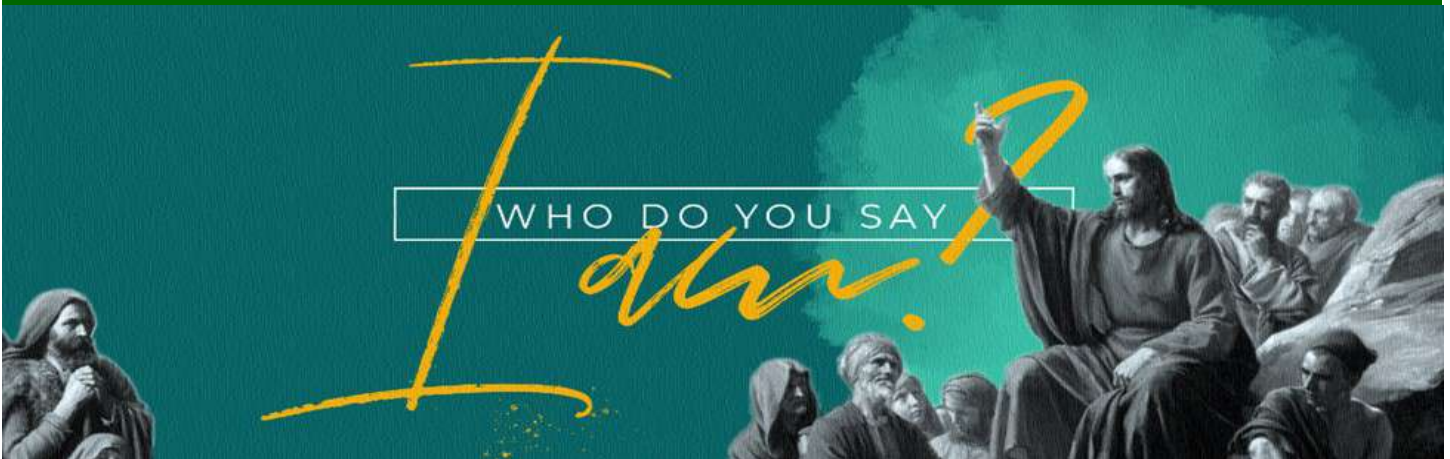
**Same weekend last year: \$5,885**

Follow us on Social Media:

@OLMCAstoria







Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we gather this twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Gospel from Matthew invites us to deeply examine the authenticity of our faith. Jesus's probing question, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" and its personal follow-up, "But who do you say that I am?" requires introspection. While we, like Peter, declare, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God," it's crucial to ask: do our actions mirror our proclamation?

Christ's role in our lives is paramount. If He truly stands as our Savior, guiding us to salvation, then every facet of our lives should mirror this profound truth. It is not sufficient to verbally recognize Him; this realization must infiltrate our ambitions, values, financial decisions, familial ties, and even our entertainment choices.

For many, faith finds its foundation in traditions: regular Sunday Mass attendance, religious rituals, and significant religious observances. While undeniably vital to our spiritual journey, true faith extends beyond these practices, demanding a profound engagement that turns our lives into a testament of Christ's influence.

Our parish life is a litmus test of this engagement. Are we simply passive observers in our parish, or do we play an active, constructive role? Community involvement is not just about physical presence. It is about fully integrating, utilizing our God-given talents for broader communal benefits. Simply attending Mass or seeking the Church in dire times does not suffice. Genuine recognition of Christ as our Savior mandates vibrant parish participation. Whether it's engaging in parish groups, partaking frequently in the Sacraments, or offering financial support, every gesture holds weight. These acts not only sustain our Church but also extend Christ's compassion to those in need.

It is noteworthy how a dedicated group within our parish tirelessly gives of their time, talent, and resources. Their constant presence at the forefront paints a vivid picture of what it means to be a disciple of Christ and stands as an inspiring beacon for all of us. However, for a thriving and dynamic community, we need every member to play their part. While some might think, "What difference can my small act make?", remember that when many small acts come together, they create a movement.

To those of you actively involved, a heartfelt thank you for being the backbone of our community. To others who have been holding back, consider this letter not just as a reminder but as an invitation to step forward. Your parish needs you, not just as attendees but as active participants. As we move forward, let us ensure that our parish is not just a place we visit but a community we actively shape and nurture.

In essence, our faith journey is communal, woven with the tales and efforts of fellow believers. With every act of engagement, we echo an answer to Jesus's pivotal question. Let us ensure our actions consistently resonate with Peter's assertion. Every blessing we have received — time, talents, and treasures — should reinforce our commitment to Christ, not merely in words but in tangible deeds.

As we venture into a new week, let us pledge to act, to participate, and to ensure our parish remains a living testament to our shared faith.

With sincere prayers and blessings,

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



Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Al reunirnos este vigésimo primer domingo en Tiempo Ordinario, el Evangelio de Mateo nos invita a examinar profundamente la autenticidad de nuestra fe. La incisiva pregunta de Jesús, “¿Quién dicen los hombres que es el Hijo del Hombre?” y su seguimiento personal, “¿Y quién decís que soy yo?” requiere introspección. Mientras que nosotros, como Pedro, declaramos: “Tú eres el Cristo, el Hijo del Dios viviente”, es fundamental preguntarnos: ¿nuestras acciones reflejan nuestra proclamación?

Si Jesús es realmente nuestro Salvador, guiándonos hacia la salvación, entonces cada faceta de nuestras vidas debería reflejar esta profunda verdad. No es suficiente reconocerlo verbalmente; esta realización debe permear nuestras ambiciones, valores, decisiones financieras, lazos familiares e incluso nuestras elecciones de entretenimiento.

Para muchos, la fe tiene su fundamento en las tradiciones: asistir regularmente a la Misa dominical, rituales religiosos y observancias religiosas significativas. Aunque son esenciales en nuestro viaje espiritual, la verdadera fe va más allá de estas prácticas, exigiendo un compromiso profundo que convierta nuestras vidas en un testimonio de la influencia de Cristo.

La vida de nuestra parroquia es una prueba de este compromiso. ¿Somos simplemente observadores pasivos en nuestra parroquia o desempeñamos un papel activo y constructivo? La participación comunitaria no se trata solo de presencia física. Se trata de integrarse plenamente, utilizando los talentos que Dios nos ha dado para beneficios comunitarios más amplios. Ya sea participando en grupos parroquiales, recibiendo con frecuencia los Sacramentos o brindando apoyo financiero, cada gesto tiene importancia. Estos actos no solo sostienen nuestra Iglesia, sino que también extienden la compasión de Cristo a aquellos en necesidad.

Es digno de mención cómo un grupo dedicado dentro de nuestra parroquia da incansablemente de su tiempo, talento y recursos. Su constante presencia en la vanguardia es un claro ejemplo de lo que significa ser un discípulo de Cristo y es un faro inspirador para todos nosotros. Sin embargo, para tener una comunidad próspera y dinámica, necesitamos que cada miembro desempeñe su papel. Mientras algunos podrían pensar, “¿Qué diferencia puede hacer mi pequeño acto?”, recordemos que cuando muchos actos pequeños se unen, crean un movimiento.

A aquellos de ustedes que participan activamente, un sincero agradecimiento por ser el pilar de nuestra comunidad. A los demás que se han mantenido al margen, consideren esta carta no solo como un recordatorio sino como una invitación para dar un paso al frente. Su parroquia los necesita, no solo como asistentes sino como participantes activos. Al avanzar, asegúrenos de que nuestra parroquia no sea solo un lugar al que vamos, sino una comunidad que moldeamos y nutrimos activamente.

En esencia, nuestro viaje de fe es comunitario, entrelazado con las historias y esfuerzos de otros creyentes. Con cada acto de compromiso, damos respuesta a la pregunta clave de Jesús. Asegúrenos de que nuestras acciones resuenen consistentemente con la afirmación de Pedro. Cada bendición que hemos recibido —tiempo, talentos y tesoros— debe reforzar nuestro compromiso con Cristo, no solo en palabras sino en hechos tangibles.

Al embarcarnos en una nueva semana, comprometámonos a actuar, participar y asegurar que nuestra parroquia siga siendo un testimonio vivo de nuestra fe compartida.

Con sinceras oraciones y bendiciones,

**Mons. Cuong M. Pham**

# THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

## PARISH SUPPORT THROUGH E-GIVING

Our parish ministries depend on the steady, consistent support provided by monthly givers. It is a lifeline that sustains us year-round when summer vacations, holiday travels, inclement weather, and other forces keep people away from services. Plus it eases the workload on our hardworking staff (who also want to take vacations!), since they have fewer cash and check donations to process. Getting started with eGiving is easy. Here are the ways to sign up:

- Visit [faith.direct/NY370](http://faith.direct/NY370)
- Call Faith Direct Customer Service at 866-507-8757
- Text "Enroll" to 929-254-3850



## DONACIONES ELECTRONICAS

Nuestros ministerios parroquiales dependen del apoyo constante y constante proporcionado por los donantes mensuales. Es un salvavidas que nos sostiene durante todo el año cuando las vacaciones de verano, los viajes de vacaciones, las inclemencias del tiempo y otras fuerzas mantienen a las personas alejadas de los servicios. Además, alivia la carga de trabajo de nuestro personal trabajador (¡que también quiere tomarse vacaciones!), ya que tienen menos donaciones en efectivo y cheques para procesar. Comenzar con eGiving es fácil. Estas son las formas para registrarse:

- Visite [faith.direct/NY370](http://faith.direct/NY370)
- Llame al Servicio al Cliente de Faith Direct al 866-507-8757
- Envíe un mensaje de texto con la palabra "Enroll" a 929-254-3850

## INFANT BAPTISM/ BAUTISMOS

### Preparation Meeting

**Tuesday—6:00pm—Institute**  
 September 19, 2023  
 October 24, 2023  
 November 21, 2023  
 December 19, 2023

### Baptism Ceremony

**12:00pm— Upper Church**  
 September 23, 2023  
 October 28, 2023  
 November 25, 2023  
 December 23, 2023

### Reunión de Preparación

**Martes—6:00pm—Instituto**  
 5 de Septiembre, 2023  
 10 de Octubre, 2023

### Ceremonia de Bautismo

**12:00pm—Iglesia de Arriba**  
 9 de Septiembre, 2023  
 14 de Octubre, 2023

### NO HABRA BAUTISMOS EN NOVIEMBRE

5 de Diciembre, 2023      9 de Diciembre, 2023

### Sunday, August 27

10:00am—1:00pm Czech Community *Lourdes A/B*  
 10:30am—12:15pm Cursillo *Guadalupe A/B*

### Tuesday, August 29

3:30pm—6:00pm Porque Ser Catolico? *Fatima*  
 5:30pm—7:00pm Mariachi School *Balcony*  
 6:00pm—7:00pm Preparacion para Bautizo *Lourdes A/B*  
 6:00pm—9:00pm Marriage Encounter *Guadalupe+ Fatima*  
 7:00pm—9:00pm Coro #1 *Nazareth*

### Thursday, August 31

10:00am—11:30am Legion of Mary *Guadalupe A/B*  
 7:30pm—8:30pm Grupo de Amistad *Lourdes A/B*

### Friday, September 1

5:00pm—7:00pm Bilingual Choir *Nazareth*  
 7:00pm—9:00pm Youth Night *Guadalupe A/B*

### Saturday, September 2

9:00am—1:00pm AA Meeting *Guadalupe A/B*  
 10:00am—12:00pm Spanish Children's Choir *Fatima*  
 5:00pm—6:30pm Ministerio de Consolacion *Nazareth*  
 6:30pm—8:00pm Porque Ser Catolico? *Fatima*

## RECTORY OFFICE CLOSING

The parish office will be closed on Monday, September 4, 2023 in observance of Labor Day. There will only be one Mass celebrated in English in the main Church at 9:00am. The office will reopen at 9:00am on Tuesday, September 5th.



## DIGGING DEEPER INTO SUNDAY'S READINGS

### First Reading

The Lord condemns Shebna (the master of King Hezekiah's palace) for ignoring Isaiah's prophetic warning and gives to Eliakim the authority and honor that belonged to Shebna. What helps you stay focused on following God's commandments?

### Second Reading

Paul celebrates the wisdom and knowledge - the mystery - of God. If you could ask God one question, what would it be?

### Gospel Reading

In Peter confessing Jesus as "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," Jesus gives him the authority to hold the keys to the kingdom of heaven. How do you use authority in your life?



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATIONS



This is the last week that registrations for our Religious Education Program will be open. **It is important that those that were enrolled in the program last school year be re-registered for this year.**

For new registrations, please pick up an application at the parish office, fill it out with clear letters, & please provide the certificates of all the sacraments your child has already made along with the birth certificate and pay the required fee.

Registration Fee for **August:** **1 Child \$75.00,**  
**2 Children \$120.00,**  
**3 or more \$160.00**

## 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 participation will strengthen your faith and your sense of belonging in God's family.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE CHECK:

New Registration  Changed Address  
 I prefer envelopes  I prefer E-giving

## REGISTRACION PARROQUIAL

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

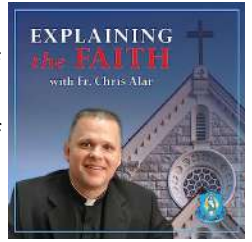
Nombre(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dirección: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ciudad \_\_\_\_\_ Estado \_\_\_\_\_ C. Postal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Teléfono: \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### POR FAVOR MARCAR:

Nueva Registración  Cambio de dirección  
 Prefiero Sobres  Donaciones en línea

## SATURDAY FAITH FELLOWSHIP

The Saturday Faith Fellowship Ministry invites all to a series of Video Presentations by Fr. Chris Alar, MIC (Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception). The video series will take place in the Parish Institute, 10:00am—1:00pm on the dates shown below.



A major component of the program is the group discussions and feedback on how the points raised by the video presentations resonated with the participants experiences. All are welcome to join us!

**September 9:** 10 Commandments & 7 Deadly Sins  
**September 23:** The Importance of Holy Communion

## RITE OF INITIATION FOR ADULTS

If you are an adult, 18 years or older, who has not received the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion and/or Confirmation, we invite you to consider preparing yourself to receive these very important spiritual gifts. Please call the parish office and leave a message with your contact information to learn how you can participate in this program.

*Si usted es un adulto, mayo de 18 años, quien no ha recibido los sacramentos de Bautismo, Comunion y/o la Confirmación, se le invita a considerar prepararse para recibir estos regalos espirituales muy importantes. Por favor llame a la oficina parroquial y deje su información de contacto para aprender como puede participar en este programa.*

## ROSARY SOCIETY

The Rosary Society will resume their monthly meetings starting September 3, 2023 after the 9:30am Mass. Refreshments will be served. All ladies over age 15 are invited to join. Bring a friend.



## 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, September 1, 2023.** 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.

## RETIRO CARISMATICO

GRAN RETIRO ESPIRITUAL  
SEP. 9/2023 EN N.SRA DE MONTE CARMELO  
23-25 NEWTON AVE ASTORIA, NY 11102  
9:00 AM 5:00PM

GPO.DE ORACION  
MANANTIALES DE GRACIA  
INVITA

# SANACION Y LIBERACION INTERIOR DESDE EL VIENTRE MATERNO

**PREDICA**  
DIACONO ELKIN TAMAYO  
OSVALDO FERNANDEZ  
MARIA ACEVES  
ANA GUZMAN

EXPOSICION DE  
**JESUS**  
SACRAMENTADO AL FINAL



## VENTA DE COMIDA

EL COMITE GUADALUPANO LES DA LAS GRACIAS POR SU APOYO!

### COMIDAS

TACOS DE BISTEC  
FRUTA

TLACOYO DE FLIJOL Y QUESO  
QUESADILLAS DE PAPA Y QUESO  
POZOLE  
TOSTADAS DE TINGA DE POLLO  
TACOS DORADOS DE QUESO  
PASTEL

### BEBIDAS

AGUA Y SODA

**27 DE AGOSTO**  
**EN SALON GUADALUPE**  
DESPUES DE LA MISA DE 12:30PM

## REGISTRACIONES PARA CATECISMO

Las inscripciones para el programa de catecismo están abiertas hasta fin de **Agosto SOLAMENTE**.

Para una nueva registración, por favor recoja una aplicación en la oficina parroquial, llene el cuestionario con letra clara y debe de traer los certificados de los sacramentos ya recibidos y haga el pago requerido.

Si su niño/a ya estuvo en nuestro programa este año, por favor vaya a la oficina y pida el formulario de re-inscripción y haga el pago requerido.

Cuota de Inscripción:

Por el mes de **Julio y Agosto**

1 niño (a) \$75.00

2 niños (as) \$120.00

3 niños (as) o más \$160.00





# OLMC Youth Group

## 5 REASONS TO JOIN!

- 1 A FAITHILLED COMMUNITY
- 2 A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
- 3 LEARN ABOUT YOUR FAITH
- 4 SPORT NIGHTS
- 5 YEARLY RETREATS



MEET WITH US EVERY FRIDAY @ 7PM

OLMC Youth Group



OLMC INSTITUTE  
23-20 NEWTOWN AVE  
ASTORIA, NY 11102  
(718) 278-1834  
[www.mountcarmelastoria.org](http://www.mountcarmelastoria.org)



As summer winds down and the return to a hectic pace awaits, you may want to take some time to check the legal documents related to your home.

Considering NYC's real estate prices, your home may be your most valuable asset. Home title and related documents must be in order to make sure you and your family are protected.

For example, is the title to your house in your individual name or in joint name with someone else? Are you the surviving joint tenant of the property? If you paid off your mortgage, was the Satisfaction of Mortgage properly recorded? Are all your real estate taxes paid currently? Many people assume their real estate documents are in order, but sometimes there are unexpected difficulties which arise because of life events affecting the existing documentation.

Taking the time to check does not take long and is important to make sure your home is secure.

Another good checkup is whether you have a valid Durable Power of Attorney which designates someone to act on your behalf in the event you incur a disability.

Remember, a disability can be anything from a broken arm affecting your ability to sign your name to a more serious disability from a medical condition such as a stroke. Again, over time and through some of life's circumstances, it is important to have a trusted person designated by you in place to act for you. It only takes a brief time to do the review to make sure you are protected.

A little summertime review provides additional peace of mind for an enjoyable summer season.

If you would like to learn more about keeping your assets safe or other estate planning information, please call Celeste Stewart, our parish manager in the parish office or Catholic Foundation for Brooklyn & Queens at 718-965-7375.

*A medida que el verano termina y le espera el regreso a un ritmo agitado, es posible que desee tomarse un tiempo para revisar los documentos legales relacionados con su hogar.*

*Teniendo en cuenta los precios inmobiliarios de la ciudad de Nueva York, su casa puede ser su activo más valioso. El título de la vivienda y los documentos relacionados deben ser para garantizar que usted y su familia estén protegidos.*

*Por ejemplo, ¿el título de su casa está a su nombre individual o a nombre conjunto con otra persona? ¿Es usted el copropietario sobreviviente de la propiedad? Si canceló su hipoteca, ¿se registró correctamente la Satisfacción de la Hipoteca? ¿Están todos sus impuestos inmobiliarios pagados actualmente? Muchas personas asumen que sus documentos inmobiliarios están en orden, pero a veces surgen dificultades inesperadas debido a acontecimientos de la vida que afectan la documentación existente.*

*Tomarse el tiempo para verificar no toma mucho tiempo y es importante para asegurarse de que su hogar esté seguro.*

*Otro buen control es si tiene un poder notarial duradero válido que designe a alguien para actuar en su nombre en caso de que incurra en una discapacidad.*

*Recuerde, una discapacidad puede ser cualquier cosa, desde un brazo roto que afecte su capacidad para firmar con su nombre hasta una discapacidad más grave derivada de una afección médica como un derrame cerebral. Nuevamente, con el tiempo y a través de algunas circunstancias de la vida, es importante contar con una persona de confianza designada por usted para que actúe en su nombre. Sólo toma un breve tiempo realizar la revisión para asegurarse de que está protegido.*

*Un pequeño repaso del verano proporciona tranquilidad adicional para disfrutar de una agradable temporada de verano.*

*Si desea obtener más información sobre cómo mantener seguros sus bienes u otra información sobre planificación patrimonial, llame a Celeste Stewart, nuestra gerente parroquial en la oficina parroquial, o a la Fundación Católica para Brooklyn y Queens al 718-965-7375.*



## WHY ARE CATHOLICS REQUIRED TO GIVE MONEY TO THE CHURCH?

Offering money and other goods to God and the Church is, before all else, a statement of gratitude. We see this when we look at how our spiritual ancestors showed their gratitude to God for the gifts they had received (e.g. Genesis 14:18-20 and Genesis 28:16-22). One of the ways they offered thanks to God was through a practice called "tithing," in which 10 percent of a person's goods (crops, livestock, money, etc.) were given back to God.

Today, the practice of tithing - giving 10 percent is still common in many Protestant communities, but it is not required for Catholics. Instead, the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that, "The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to [their] own abilities" (no. 2043). This means that, although we are not bound to practice "tithing" in the traditional sense, we do share a responsibility to share our money or other resources with

our parish communities. Like our spiritual ancestors, we give as a sign of our gratitude for the many gifts that God has given to us. Beyond this, we also share our resources with other Catholic organizations to help them finance their ministries, to continue and grow their outreach to the poor and the needy, and to provide just wages for their employees. How much we give depends on our individual circumstances, but since we share a responsibility for the programs, outreach, and health of our parish communities and Catholic organizations, this question gives us a wonderful opportunity to ask some important questions about the quality of our giving and what our priorities are. Remember, we are only stewards of our time, talents, and treasures and as the First Letter of Peter reminds us, "As each one of you has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied graces" (4:10).

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

Despite being forced into marriage at 16, Venerable Teresa Fardella de Blasi still pursued her heart's desire to serve the poor wherever she lived with her husband. Originally from New York, she founded and eventually joined the Poor Daughters of the Crowned Virgin in Italy.

### Prayer

O loving Jesus, please grant that Your servant, Venerable Teresa Fardella de Blasi, who worked selflessly for poor and homeless children and adolescents, may, through the intercession of Mary Queen of Heaven, be glorified by visible signs and miracles; so that for Your glory and salvation of souls, she may, by Your power, be declared Blessed. Amen.



## WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

I once knew a very devout woman whose adult godchild had fallen away from the practice of the faith. This godchild still believed in God, and even felt a sense of belonging in the Church. He was a good and kind person. But poor catechesis and a society that confuses pleasure with joy had left him lax in practice, without an appreciation of the sacraments. He was making choices that threatened his soul.

His godmother wanted more for him. She planned to speak with him about his life, hoping to encourage him to return to the practice of the faith. She knew that, when she brought this up, he would reply that it wasn't important to attend Mass or to receive the Eucharist, that was all just "extra."

She told me that she was going to begin their conversation by asking him the question Jesus poses to Peter in Matthew 16:15- the critical question in all our lives,

the question whose answer will define what we become in this world and the next.

Her godson knew the answer. She was confident, unshakably, that he did. He may have forgotten it or ignored it. He may have tried to convince himself he wasn't entirely sure. He may have refused to give an answer. But he knew it. He knew the answer.

There is a reason that, after Peter's response, Jesus gives him the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

"Who do you say that I am?"

Let our whole lives be our answer.

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." - Matthew 16:16

*Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*