



## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

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

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023**

## THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD



Jesus took Peter, James, and his brother, John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. - Mt 17:1-2

# OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

## PARISH MANAGER

Celeste Stewart, Ext. 111  
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## RELIGIOUS ED COORDINATOR

Nelly Gutierrez, Ext. 114  
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## OFFICE RECEPTIONIST

Luis Sanchez Ext. 110  
reception@mountcarmelastoria.org



## PASTOR

Rev. Msgr. Cuong M. Pham

## PAROCHIAL VICARS

Rev. Michael McHugh  
Rev. Sy 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, AUGUST 5

*(Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major)*

5:00pm Chin—Hofatt & Spadavecchia Families  
Sister Mary Gavan

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 6 *(The Transfiguration of the Lord)*

8:00am Victoriano De Los Santos  
9:00am Madonna Degl'Angeli  
9:30am The Living & Deceased Members of  
Our Parish's Rosary Society  
11:00am Carol Gigante  
12:30pm Fredesvinda Mena, Julio Cesar Velazquez,  
Laura Sofia Arenas Perez *(Cumpleaños)*,  
Jason Garcia Martinez *(XVI Cumpleaños)*  
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

### MONDAY, AUGUST 7 *(Saints Sixtus II & Cajetan)*

8:00am Mario Carullo  
12:00pm Gilberto & Neida Martinez  
*(in Memory— 72nd Wedding Anniversary)*

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 8 *(Saint Dominic)*

8:00am Thomas Gannon  
12:00pm Francesco Valenza

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

*(Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross)*

8:00am Sean Cronan  
12:00pm Kathleen Dillon

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 10 *(Saint Lawrence)*

8:00am Deceased Members of the Leyco, Bitnacur  
and Jerao Families  
12:00pm Angelica Lopez Chavez

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 11 *(Saint Clare)*

8:00am In Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
12:00pm Norma Soto

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 12 *(Saint Jane Frances de Chantal)*

8:00am John Pham  
5:00pm Giuseppe Castellisi,  
Dayanira Astudillo *(Living— XV Años)*

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

*(Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)*

8:00am Carmelina Comunale  
9:00am Vincenzo Augusto  
9:30am Maria Pastora Rodriguez  
11:00am Helen D'Souza & Family *(Living)*  
12:30pm Alejandrina Guaman *(42nd Anniversary)*,  
Feliciano Verdeja, Paquita Hernandez,  
Angela Calixto & Bardomiano Lopez  
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

## SECOND COLLECTIONS

**August 5 & 6th, 2023**— During this weekend Fr. Marian Emmanuel, SAC will be here to speak about the missionary work of the Pallottines Missionaries in India. Pallottines have been involved in the work of evangelization for the last 72 years and have been involved in providing basic necessities to the families who lost their jobs, struggling to survive. The help and support of many generous people, like yourselves, all over the world makes it possible to continue God's work and are greatly appreciated.

## MEMORIAL GIFTS THIS WEEK



*The Sanctuary Lamp has been offered for  
Sister Mary Gavan,  
by Ginny Stujenske*

## MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday	5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)
Sunday	<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)
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 (Bi-lingual)
Holidays	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 July 31, 2023 we have a total of 163 parishioners who have pledged a total of \$54,860 from which \$47,428 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

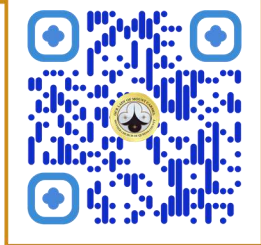
Remembering our deceased loved ones by having them prayed for at Mass on every first Friday of the month — the day traditionally dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, is a meaningful way to express our love. Enrollment is \$10 per name. Those enrolled the Purgatorial Society will be remembered for 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, Genesis Pavon, John Bryam Guevara, Antonio Portugal, Gerry Viz Conde**

Welcome

### NEW TO THE PARISH?



## WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT

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

Last weekend's collection: \$4,825

Same weekend last year: \$5,587

Follow us on Social Media:

@OLMCAstoria





Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration this Sunday, I am reminded of the theme of transformation, a concept that resonates with our parish as we make necessary improvements to our church building and parish facilities. These changes, though modest in comparison to Christ's divine transformation, reflect our strong desire to give glory to God. I wish to share with you updates on these exciting developments within our parish.

Since the beginning of my ministry among you, I have committed to addressing vital projects that were previously delayed. Thanks to your unwavering support, we've undertaken renovations and beautifications throughout our sacred and communal spaces. I'm heartened by your appreciation for these efforts.

Last year, together, we tackled the perennial problems of constant flooding and water leaks in both the upper and lower church and surroundings, a potential threat to lasting damage. Through excavation, pipe replacement, drain unclogging, and waterproofing, we not only eradicated these issues but also strengthened and beautified our worship space. This summer, with Bishop Robert Brennan's approval and the recommendations of the Diocesan Building and Grounds Office, we are addressing the collapsed and broken drainpipes leading to the sewer mainline under the church's corridor. The temporary closure of the left entrance to the chapel is an unfortunate necessity, but this sacrifice paves the way to a safer and worry-free worship space. We expect that this work will be done within a month from now.

At the same time, we have begun revamping the parish gymnasium's stage to create an inviting atmosphere for parish celebrations. This includes better lighting, freshly painted walls, and new curtains. We are also considering the installation of a moving gate at the church's main entrance. This gate will provide enhanced security, ensuring a safe and peaceful environment for all who come to pray in this sacred house.

Along with these exciting developments, I am thrilled to announce the upcoming construction of a glass atrium, a promise we made at the beginning of this year's Annual Catholic Appeal. This project involves placing a glass and steel roof over the unused outdoor corridor sandwiched between the church building and the rectory's side garden, transforming it into a welcoming meeting space. Equipped with heating and air conditioning, the atrium will comfortably accommodate approximately 40 people with tables and chairs, offering a new venue for prayer

groups and our ever-expanding ministries. Care has been taken to ensure this project will complement our church's external beauty and integrity. In fact, the new atrium will blend seamlessly into the existing structure, becoming a natural extension of the "greenhouse" that currently houses the staircase connecting the upper church's side vestibule to the lower church.

These physical transformations are not merely aesthetic; they symbolize our communal growth in faith and our commitment to future generations. I believe that our combined efforts mirror the transformation celebrated on this Feast of the Transfiguration, a brighter, more grace-filled future for ourselves, our children, and our children's children.

Thank you for your dedication to our parish, particularly through your generous contribution to the Annual Catholic Appeal in addition to your weekly offerings. Your goodness allows us to address the growing needs of our community and make our church even more attractive and welcoming. Together, let us embrace these changes with the joy that emanated from the transfigured Christ on Mount Tabor, and let us pray that Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Astoria will continue to stand as a beacon of God's glory for generations to come.

With prayers and blessings,

*Msgr. Cuong M. Pham*



Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Mientras celebramos la Fiesta de la Transfiguración este domingo, me viene a la mente el tema de la transformación, un concepto que resuena en nuestra parroquia mientras realizamos mejoras necesarias en nuestra iglesia y las instalaciones parroquiales. Estos cambios, aunque modestos en comparación con la transformación divina de Cristo, reflejan nuestro fuerte deseo de dar gloria a Dios. Deseo compartir con ustedes las novedades de estos desarrollos en nuestra parroquia.

Desde el inicio de mi ministerio entre ustedes, me he comprometido a abordar proyectos vitales que previamente habían sido pospuestos. Gracias a su inquebrantable apoyo, hemos llevado a cabo renovaciones y embellecimientos en nuestros espacios sagrados y comunitarios. El año pasado, abordamos los problemas perennes de inundaciones constantes y filtraciones de agua tanto en la iglesia y la capilla y sus alrededores, una amenaza potencial de daños duraderos. Mediante la excavación, reemplazo de tuberías, desatascamiento de desagües e impermeabilización, no solo erradicamos estos problemas, sino que también fortalecimos nuestro lugar sagrado. Este verano, con la aprobación de nuestro obispo Monseñor Robert Brennan y las recomendaciones de la Oficina Diocesana de Construcción y Terrenos, estamos abordando las tuberías colapsadas y rotas que conducen a la línea principal de alcantarillado debajo del corredor de la iglesia. El cierre temporal de la entrada izquierda a la capilla es una necesidad desafortunada, pero este sacrificio allana el camino hacia un sagrado espacio más seguro. Esperamos que este trabajo esté terminado dentro de este mes.

Al mismo tiempo, hemos comenzado a renovar el escenario del gimnasio parroquial para crear un ambiente acogedor para las celebraciones parroquiales. Esto incluye mejor iluminación, paredes recién pintadas y cortinas nuevas. También estamos considerando la instalación de una puerta corredera en la entrada principal de la iglesia. Esta puerta ofrecerá una mayor seguridad, garantizando un ambiente seguro y tranquilo para todos los que vengan a rezar en esta iglesia.

Junto con estos emocionantes desarrollos, me complace anunciar la próxima construcción de un atrio de vidrio, una promesa que hicimos a principios de la Campaña Católica Anual de este año. Este proyecto implica colocar un techo de vidrio y acero sobre el corredor exterior sin uso, situado entre el edificio de la iglesia y el jardín lateral de la rectoría, transformándolo en un espacio de encuentro acogedor. Este atrio podrá albergar cómodamente a unas 40 personas con mesas y sillas, ofreciendo un nuevo lugar para los grupos de oración y nuestros ministerios en expansión. Se ha tenido cuidado de asegurar que este proyecto complementará la belleza e integridad externa de nuestra iglesia. De hecho, el nuevo atrio se integrará perfectamente en la estructura existente,

convirtiéndose en una extensión natural del “invernadero” que actualmente alberga la escalera que conecta el vestíbulo lateral de la iglesia principal con la capilla abajo.

Estas transformaciones físicas no son meramente estéticas; simbolizan nuestro crecimiento comunal en la fe y nuestro compromiso con las futuras generaciones. Creo que nuestros esfuerzos conjuntos reflejan la transformación celebrada en esta Fiesta de la Transfiguración, un futuro más brillante y lleno de gracia para nosotros y nuestros hijos.

Gracias por su dedicación a nuestra parroquia, particularmente a través de su generosa contribución a la Campaña Católica Anual además de sus ofrendas semanales, podemos atender las crecientes necesidades de nuestra comunidad y hacer que nuestra iglesia sea aún más atractiva y acogedora. Juntos, abracemos estos cambios con la alegría que emanó de Cristo transfigurado, y oremos para que Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo continúe siendo un faro de la gloria de Dios

Con 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

### Sunday, August 6

7:00am—4:00pm	Blood Drive	Guadalupe A/B
10:00am—1:00pm	Czech Community	Lourdes A/B
10:30am—12:15pm	Cursillo	Guadalupe A/B

### Tuesday, August 8

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 10

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

### Friday, August 11

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

### Saturday, August 12

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

## CONFRATERNITY OF OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

All members meet every fourth Sunday of the month for the recitation of the Rosary before by the 9:00am Italian Mass. If you are interested in becoming a member please call the parish office and leave your name and number.



## DIGGING DEEPER INTO SUNDAY'S READINGS

### First Reading

In a vision, the prophet Daniel sees the heavenly throne of God and the coming kingdom of God represented by a human figure, a "son of man." The vision speaks to God's everlasting love and ultimate control of the world. Why do you think God reveals Himself in visions?

### Second Reading

Peter speaks of his eyewitness to the majesty of Jesus Christ. How might you witness to family or friends this week your beliefs about Jesus?

### Gospel Reading

The transfiguration reveals Jesus's divinity to Peter, James, and John, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." What would you say is the most important lesson from Jesus that we should listen to?

## INFANT BAPTISM/ BAUTISMOS

Preparation Meeting	Baptism Ceremony
<b>Tuesday—6:00pm—Institute</b>	<b>12:00pm— Upper Church</b>
August 22, 2023	August 26, 2023
September 19, 2023	September 23, 2023
October 24, 2023	October 28, 2023
November 21, 2023	November 25, 2023
December 19, 2023	December 23, 2023

Reunión de Preparación	Ceremonia de Bautismo
<b>Martes—6:00pm—Instituto</b>	<b>12:00pm—Iglesia de Arriba</b>
8 de Agosto, 2023	12 de Agosto, 2023
5 de Septiembre, 2023	9 de Septiembre, 2023
10 de Octubre, 2023	14 de Octubre, 2023

### NO HABRA BAUTISMOS EN NOVIEMBRE

5 de Diciembre, 2023	9 de Diciembre, 2023
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## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATIONS

Registrations for our Religious Education Program will be open during the month of **August ONLY**.

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.

If your child was in our religious education program this year, please ask for the re-registration form, update the form as needed 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

## 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, Comunión 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.*

**Sweet** reward  
for saving lives!

Receive a box of Girl Scout cookies  
when you present to give.  
While supplies last.



## BLOOD DRIVE

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel**

**Sunday August 06, 2023**

**9:00am – 3:00pm**

23-20 Newtown Ave., Astoria 11102

(Guadalupe Room)



Scan the QR code or [click here](#) to make your appointment.

Please remember to eat, drink, and bring your ID with your name and photo. Appointments are preferred however walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits.  
Visit: [nybc.org/coronavirus](http://nybc.org/coronavirus) for complete COVID-19 safety protocols.



New York  
Blood Center



800.933.BLOOD · [nybc.org](http://nybc.org) #nybloodcenter



Not attending World Youth Day in Lisbon?  
**Join us for Diocesan World Youth Day!**

World Youth Day is a call to all Catholic young teens and adults to renew their faith in Christ and prepare themselves for the work of the new evangelization and we are celebrating World Youth Day here in the Diocese of Brooklyn

**When:** Saturday, August 5th

**Where:** Our Lady of Mount Carmel  
2325 Newtown Ave, Queens, NY 11102

**Time:** 7:00-10:00 PM



Let us come together for an evening with  
Holy Hour, Praise and Worship, Testimonials, & Fellowship



# CELIBACY & FATHERHOOD

Celibacy isn't just about "not having sex." There's an aspect of celibacy that is more important for a man to consider when discerning the priesthood: the inclination to natural fatherhood.

Healthy men usually have a natural inclination to want children. They are, after all, one of God's greatest gifts, and a family can bring great joy to a man's life. From the miracle of participating in the creation of life, to the education and formation of his children, watching them grow and mature, fulfill their own vocations, and even potentially start their own families, natural fatherhood can be a source of great happiness for the man whom God calls to that vocation.



It's no wonder, then, that the sacrifice of foregoing natural fatherhood might put many men off from considering the priesthood! But it would be a mistake for any man to avoid considering the priesthood simply based on the fact that he has an inclination to be a father. It may well be that his inclination to fatherhood can only really be fulfilled by *supernatural* fatherhood!

Consider what St. John Chrysostom says: "The priest is the common father of the whole world." You've probably heard this many times before: a priest's fatherhood is not limited to several natural children. Rather, his fatherhood encompasses every human soul. He is, in a very real way, the father of every soul he baptizes, every soul he cleanses in confession, who receives communion from his hands, whose marriage he witnesses, whom he confirms, whose broken or dying body he anoints, and (if a bishop) who receives holy orders from him. In effecting the rebirth of these people into the heavenly life, he is truly a father in a much more real way than he could ever be to some as a natural father!

Even apart from the sacraments, there are many whom he consoles, comforts, teaches, and aids in countless ways for whom he is a spiritual father — whether they are Catholic or not. To the superficial ear, it may sound like a platitude, but if we truly believe with the Church, we know that the priesthood is a very real fatherhood.

While this may offer some intellectual consolation, what can it do for the heart which longs for the love of a natural family? Father John F. O'Neil offers this:

"Giving up the consolation of human love won for me a thousand loves more enduring than anything human. Giving up a home of my own has not made of me a selfish bachelor, but has expanded my powers of loving so that now, as a priest, I have a place in the hundreds of homes that are grouped around the altar where I say Mass."

Don't be put off by your inclination to be a good father to your own children. If God is calling you to the priesthood, you will most certainly have the reward of many children, and the great consolations which come with the love which is shared between fathers and their children.

## I'M HERE TO HELP

I'm here to help as you seek to discover God's call for your life! If you have questions, need to talk through your discernment, or want to make an appointment, please feel free to contact me.

**Fr. Chris Bethge**  
Vocation Director

718-827-2454

[cbethge@cathedralprep.org](mailto:cbethge@cathedralprep.org)



## 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

## REGISTRACIONES PARA CATECISMO

Las inscripciones para el programa de catecismo están abiertas desde ahora 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	<b>Julio y Agosto</b>
<b>1 niño (a)</b>	\$75.00
<b>2 niños (as)</b>	\$120.00
<b>3 niños (as) o más</b>	\$160.00

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

*ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE*

What is Christianity finally about? These days if you ask almost anyone who doesn't know the Bible you'll probably hear an answer like this: "Being a good person" or "following the golden rule." No offense to the golden rule, but our faith is simply much stranger than that. This week's feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord is a luminous example of this. Jesus becomes radiantly and overwhelmingly beautiful. The glory of God literally shines forth from his body and even his clothes. Here we see that Christianity is not mainly a moral system, but a relationship with God in Christ, one that finally makes human beings gloriously beautiful.

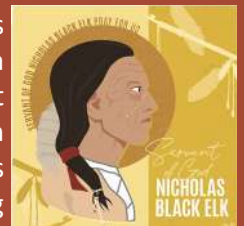
Now we can see our good and bad deeds in a new and de-centered way. Our morality isn't about a heaven or hell scorecard. It's about lives open (or closed) to transfiguration, lives capable of revealing the glory of God in Christ to the world. Spouses, children, friends, co-workers, priests, consecrated women and men, and so on - we are all called to let the beauty of Jesus make our lives beautiful, little by little. His beauty in us is the center of our faith.

- Father John Muir

**BE OPEN TO**  
*transfiguration*

## SAINT OF THE WEEK

Servant of God Nicholas Black Elk was a Lakota convert to Catholicism at the turn of the 19th century. He led hundreds to Christ while also helping his community preserve their Lakota traditions. He's remembered fondly as a catechist, healer, and cultural leader.



### Prayer

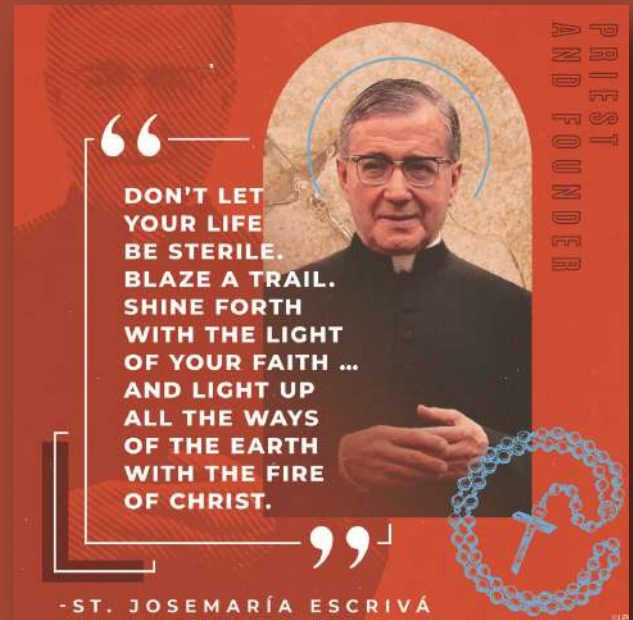
Heavenly Father, Great Spirit!

Behold us, who stand before You, singing our song of thanksgiving for Servant of God, Nicholas Black Elk. Faithfully he walked the Sacred Red Road and generously witnessed the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ among the Native American People. We humbly ask You to hear the prayers we plead through his intercession. We ask Holy Mother Church to recognize his sanctity by acknowledging his presence among the company of Saints as one to imitate in his zeal for the Gospel. Open our hearts to also recognize the Risen Christ in other cultures and peoples, to Your glory and honor. Nicholas Black Elk, Servant of God, Pray for us! Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## WHY DO PARISHES OFFER SPECIAL MASSES LIKE THANKSGIVING AND MEMORIAL DAY, EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE NOT HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION? AM I OBLIGATED TO ATTEND?

Out of respect for the various civil celebrations that take place during the year, many dioceses and parishes will host special Masses. However, while it is always worthwhile to come together to worship as a community, Catholics are not obligated to attend these celebrations. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church notes, the only times that we are obligated to participate in celebrations of the Eucharist are on Sundays and holy days of obligation:

The first precept ("You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor") requires the faithful to sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord as well as the principal liturgical feasts honoring the mysteries of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints; in the first place, by participating in the Eucharistic celebration, in which the Christian community is gathered, and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days.



## TRANSFIGURED

We have all had moments when we seem to get a glimpse of Heaven.

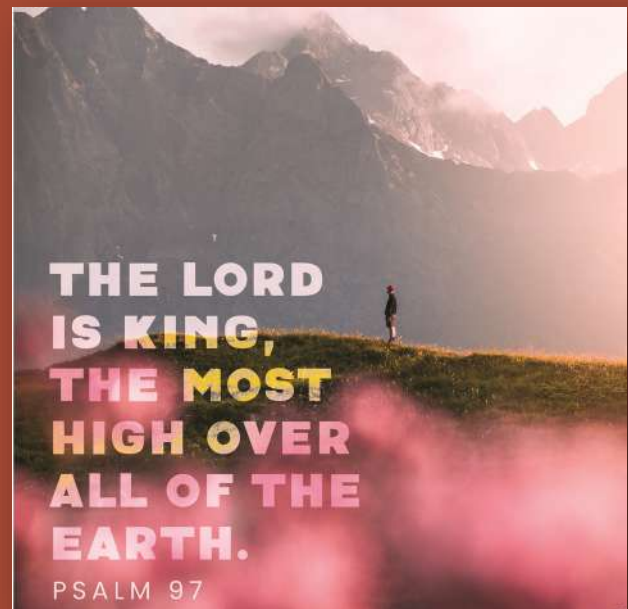
For me, they come with the sacraments: in the pew following my First Communion, kneeling before the bishop as he sealed my forehead with oil at my Confirmation, standing opposite my husband on our wedding day, cradling my newborns as the priest poured holy water over their little foreheads, claiming them for Christ.

Moments when the veil between this world and the one to come is pulled away, and our hearts cry out: "Lord, it is good we are here."

Like Peter at the Transfiguration, we desperately wish the feeling would last forever. We want to hang onto the certainty, the confidence and the joy that radiates from our souls. We want to spend forever looking upon the transfigured face of Christ.

But we are not in heaven yet. We raise our eyes, seeing only this world before us, the words of Jesus ringing in our ears: "Rise, and do not be afraid."

"His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away, his kingship shall not be destroyed." - Daniel 7:14



*Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*