



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

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

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“As for you, do not be called ‘Rabbi.’ You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven. Do not be called ‘Master’; you have but one master, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant.” - Mt 23:8-11

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH MANAGER

Celeste Stewart, Ext. 111
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RELIGIOUS ED COORDINATOR

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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

Youth Minister

Dayonel Mejia
YouthMinister@mountcarmelastoria.org

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4 (*Saint Charles Borromeo*)

5:00pm Rosanne Costello, Angelo, Maria Giuseppa & Gerlando Graci, Raffaella Mossa, Matthew & Lyn Bifulco and Arsenio & Asuncion Lecaros, Joyce Cosgrove, In Thanksgiving for Relinda Forbes

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

(*Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time*)

8:00am William Mulraney
9:00am Defunti della communita Italiana
9:30am The Living & Deceased Members of Our Parish's Rosary Society
11:00am Piotr Sklodowski
12:30pm Norberto Gutierrez (*II Aniversario*), Estanislao Bravo Ortega, Thomas Harrington (*62 Aniversario*), Juan Maria Minchala Guaman (*I Aniversario*) Por la Salud de Carlos, Oscar, Luz Maria & Jackie Cruz
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6

8:00am Maria & Anthony Pintacuda
12:00pm Teodolina Gasca Parra y Familia

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

8:00am Deceased Members of the Min & Suh Family
12:00pm Michael McCullagh

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

8:00am Raffaele & Sabbia Carullo & Family
12:00pm Goffredo Barretta

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

(*Dedication to the Lateran Basilica*)

8:00am Mario Carullo
12:00pm Angela Sanchez

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

(*Saint Leo the Great — Veteran's Day Observed*)

9:00am Anna Bertolotti

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11 (*Veteran's Day*)

8:00am Madonna Immordino Faraci
5:00pm John Gatt (3rd Anniversary), Franco Primante, Lydia Arca, Elizabeth Watson, Migrants of Mexico, In Thanksgiving to God

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

(*Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*)

8:00am Aniela & Wladyslaw Polkosnik
9:00am Defunti del Terzo Ordine Francescano
9:30am Maria Pastora Rodriguez
11:00am Giuseppe Castellisi
12:30pm Jose Mera (36 Aniversario), Estanislao Bravo Ortega, Lorgio Jimenez (40 Aniversario), Miguel & Cristina Avila, Augusto Lopez (1 Aniversario)
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

MEMORIAL GIFTS THIS WEEK



*The Sanctuary Lamp is being offered for
Our Holy Father, Pope Francis,
by Gladys Zavala.*



*The Altar Candles are being offered for
Nicolo, Maria & Mario del Greco,
by Ida del Greco*

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday	5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)
Sunday	Main Church: 8:00 AM (English) 9:30 AM (Bi-lingual) 11:00 AM (English) 12:30 PM (Spanish) 3:00 PM (Vietnamese) Chapel: 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

school@mountcarmelastoria.org

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WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT

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

Last weekend's collection: \$4,834

Same weekend last year: \$5,963



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 October 23, 2023 we have a total of 187 parishioners who have pledged a total of \$66,971 from which \$62,261 has been collected.

Give your support today on behalf of our parish online at 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.



ARE YOU READY TO "FALL INTO EGIVING?"

After the joyful summer months, the Fall season is a great time to streamline your stewardship. eGiving is a way to simplify your giving and provide steady, consistent support that helps us be ready with programs, services, and ministries for our church families and for those in our community. Your recurring gifts will help strengthen our parish and sustain our ministries throughout the year, even if you need to miss a Sunday service. It's easy to get started. Here are the ways to sign up:

- * Visit faith.direct/NY370
- * Call the parish office at 718.278.1834
- * Scan the QR code
- * Text "Enroll" to 929.254.3850



Thank you and may God bless your generosity.

¿ESTÁS LISTO PARA "CAER EN EGIVING"?

Después de los alegres meses de verano, la temporada de otoño es un buen momento para optimizar su administración. eGiving es una forma de simplificar sus donaciones y brindar un apoyo constante y constante que nos ayuda a estar listos con programas, servicios y ministerios para las familias de nuestra iglesia y para aquellos en nuestra comunidad. Sus donaciones recurrentes ayudarán a fortalecer nuestra parroquia y sustentar nuestros ministerios durante todo el año, incluso si necesita faltar a un servicio dominical. Es fácil empezar. Estas son las formas de registrarse:

- * Visite faith.direct/NY370
- * Llame la oficina parroquial al 718.278.1834
- * Escanea el código QR
- * Textear la palabra "Inscribirse" a 929.254.3850



Gracias y que Dios bendiga su generosidad.



Dear parish family,

As we step into the month of November, our spiritual journey is enriched by two profound celebrations that encapsulate our faith's deep sense of communion and intercession. We commence this sacred time with the Solemnity of All Saints on November 1st—a joyous feast that celebrates the Church Triumphant in heaven. This celebration encompasses both the renowned Saints and the multitude of Holy Souls whose names are known only to God. These are our brothers and sisters who have victoriously completed their earthly pilgrimage and now bask in the eternal glory of God's presence.

This exuberant celebration of sanctity and grace seamlessly flows into the observance of All Souls' Day on November 2nd, forming a theological bridge that connects the Church Triumphant with the Church Suffering. In the glory of the Saints, we find inspiration and advocacy; they stand as powerful intercessors before the throne of God on behalf of the Holy Souls in Purgatory—those who are still undergoing spiritual purification from the effects of their sins before they could enjoy the beatific vision of God. These two days together remind us of the profound spiritual solidarity that exists between us—the Church Militant, the Saints in heaven, and the Souls in Purgatory.

In embracing the month dedicated to remembering the Holy Souls, we immerse ourselves in the beauty and depth of our Catholic faith, affirming our belief in Purgatory and recognizing the transformative power of prayer. As a community of faith, we come together to lift up in prayer our departed brothers and sisters, many of whom have left a lasting impact on our lives, and whose memory we cherish with love and reverence.

The month unfolds with the Novena of Holy Masses at our parish, a time-honored tradition that provides a special remembrance at the Altar during the Eucharistic Prayer for those enrolled. This spiritual practice offers consolation and hope, as we recall the lives of those we have loved and lost. My own heart is drawn to the memory of my dear father, who departed this life two and a half years ago. He was a steadfast believer in the power of Mass intentions for the souls in Purgatory, a faith practice he lovingly passed down to me. He understood that our prayers assist the Holy Souls in their journey to heaven, and once they attain eternal peace, they become our intercessors before God.

The Holy Scriptures affirm the value of praying for the dead, encouraging us with the words, *"It is therefore a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins"* (2 Maccabees 12:46). In November, the Church offers us a unique opportunity to obtain Indulgences for the Holy Souls. By visiting a cemetery and praying for the dead, we can obtain an indulgence, a gift of grace that aids the souls in their journey to full communion with God. To partake in this act of mercy, we are called to receive Holy Communion, go to Confession, remain in the state of grace, and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father.

I warmly encourage each of you to embrace the practices and devotions that this month offers, as we seek to aid the Holy Souls on their journey to heaven. You are invited to request Holy Masses for them, participate in the Holy Rosary, meditate on the Scriptures, engage in public or private devotions, dedicate acts of charity, or offer up your sacrifices in their memory. These acts of faith and devotion enrich our spiritual lives and strengthen our bond with the entire Communion of Saints.

Holding you and your deceased loved ones in prayerful remembrance at the Altar, I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Msgr. Cuong M. Pham



Querida familia parroquial,

Al adentrarnos en el mes de noviembre, nuestro viaje espiritual se enriquece con dos celebraciones profundas que encapsulan el profundo sentido de comunión e intercesión de nuestra fe. Iniciamos este tiempo sagrado con la Solemnidad de Todos los Santos el 1 de noviembre, una fiesta jubilosa que celebra a la Iglesia Triunfante en el cielo. Esta celebración abarca tanto a los Santos renombrados como a la multitud de Almas Santas cuyos nombres solo Dios conoce. Son nuestros hermanos y hermanas que han completado victoriosamente su peregrinación terrenal y ahora se bañan en la gloria eterna de la presencia de Dios.

Esta exuberante celebración de santidad y gracia fluye sin interrupción hacia la conmemoración del Día de Todos los Santos el 2 de noviembre, formando un puente teológico que conecta a la Iglesia Triunfante con la Iglesia Sufriente. En la gloria de los Santos, encontramos inspiración y abogacía; se erigen como poderosos intercesores ante el trono de Dios en nombre de las Almas Santas en el Purgatorio, quienes aún están experimentando la purificación espiritual de los efectos de sus pecados antes de poder disfrutar de la visión beatífica de Dios. Estos dos días juntos nos recuerdan la profunda solidaridad espiritual que existe entre nosotros: la Iglesia Militante, los Santos en el cielo y las Almas en el Purgatorio.

Al abrazar el mes dedicado a recordar a las Almas Santas, nos sumergimos en la belleza y profundidad de nuestra fe católica, afirmando nuestra creencia en el Purgatorio y reconociendo el poder transformador de la oración. Como comunidad de fe, nos unimos para elevar en oración a nuestros hermanos y hermanas fallecidos, muchos de los cuales han dejado un impacto duradero en nuestras vidas, y cuya memoria atesoramos con amor y reverencia.

El mes se desarrolla con la Novena de Misas Santas en nuestra parroquia, una tradición venerada que proporciona un recuerdo especial en el Altar durante la Oración Eucarística para aquellos inscritos. Esta práctica espiritual ofrece consuelo y esperanza, mientras recordamos las vidas de aquellos a quienes hemos amado y perdido. Mi propio corazón se llena de recuerdos de mi querido padre, quien partió de esta vida hace dos años y medio. Él era un firme creyente en el poder de las intenciones de la Misa para las almas en el Purgatorio, una práctica de fe que me transmitió con amor. Él entendía que nuestras oraciones ayudan a las Almas Santas en su camino al cielo y, una vez que alcanzan la paz eterna, se convierten en nuestros intercesores ante Dios.

Las Sagradas Escrituras afirman el valor de orar por los muertos, alentándonos con las palabras: *“Por eso es un pensamiento santo y piadoso rezar por los difuntos, para que sean liberados de sus pecados”* (2 Macabeos 12:46). En noviembre, la Iglesia nos ofrece una oportunidad única para obtener Indulgencias para las Almas Santas. Al visitar un cementerio y orar por los muertos, podemos obtener una indulgencia, un don de gracia que ayuda a las almas en su camino hacia la plena comunión con Dios. Para participar en este acto de misericordia, estamos llamados a recibir la Sagrada Comunión, confesarnos, permanecer en estado de gracia y orar por las intenciones del Santo Padre.

Les animo calurosamente a que abracen las prácticas y devociones que este mes ofrece, mientras buscamos ayudar a las Almas Santas en su camino hacia el cielo. Están invitados a solicitar Misas Santas por ellas, participar en el Santo Rosario, meditar en las Escrituras, participar en devociones públicas o privadas, dedicar actos de caridad u ofrecer sus sacrificios en su memoria. Estos actos de fe y devoción enriquecen nuestras vidas espirituales y fortalecen nuestro vínculo con toda la Comunión de los Santos.

Manteniéndoles a ustedes y a sus seres queridos fallecidos en el recuerdo orante en el Altar, permanezco

Fielmente suyo en Cristo,

Mons. Cuong M. Pham



THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

Sunday, November 5

9:00am—1:00pm	Rosary Society	<i>Lourdes A/B</i>
10:00am—12:00pm	Spanish OCIA	<i>Fatima</i>
10:00am—1:00pm	Czech Community	<i>Guadalupe A/B</i>
10:30am—12:30pm	Cursillo	<i>Gym</i>
1:00pm—3:30pm	Posadas Venta de Comida	<i>Gym</i>
2:30pm—4:15pm	Cursillo Meeting	<i>Guadalupe A/B</i>
4:00pm—8:00pm	Practica Chinelos	<i>Guadalupe A/B</i>

Monday, November 6

7:00pm—9:00pm	Practica de Canto	<i>Guadalupe A/B</i>
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Tuesday, November 7

3:30pm—6:00pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	<i>Fatima</i>
5:30pm—7:00pm	Mariachi School	<i>Balcony</i>
6:00pm—9:00pm	Marriage Encounter	<i>Guadalupe+ Fatima</i>
7:00pm—9:00pm	Coro #1	<i>Nazareth</i>

Wednesday, November 8

4:00pm—7:30pm	Religious Education	<i>All Rooms</i>
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Thursday, November 9

10:00am—11:30am	Legion of Mary	<i>Guadalupe A/B</i>
6:00pm—7:30pm	Religious Education	<i>All Rooms</i>
7:30pm—8:30pm	Grupo de Amistad	<i>Lourdes A/B</i>

Friday, November 10

11am—12:30pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	<i>Fatima</i>
6:30pm—9:00pm	Practica de Instrumentos	<i>Upper Room</i>
6:30pm—9:00pm	Youth Night	<i>Guadalupe A/B</i>
7:00pm—9:00pm	Cursillo Meeting	<i>Lourdes A/B</i>
7:00pm—9:00pm	English RCIA	<i>Fatima</i>

Saturday, November 11

9:00am—9:00pm	Spanish Fundraiser	<i>Fatima</i>
9:00am—1:00pm	AA Meeting	<i>Guadalupe A/B</i>
10:00am—12:00pm	Spanish Children's Choir	<i>Fatima</i>
5:00pm—6:30pm	Ministerio de Consolacion	<i>Guadalupe</i>
5:00pm—7:00pm	Bilingual Choir	<i>Nazareth</i>
6:30pm—8:00pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	<i>Fatima</i>

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, November 3, 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.

ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS

The Rosary Society will have their monthly meeting on Sunday, November 5, 2023 after the 9:30am Mass. Refreshments will be served. All ladies over age 15 are invited to join. Bring a friend.

CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER LUNCHEON

Saturday, December 9, 2023

1:00pm – 4:00pm in the Institute

**Hot Buffet Lunch including Wine will be served
Assorted Gifts Baskets & 50/50 will be raffled**

Reserve your seat along with your payment of \$45 in either cash or check made out to Our Lady of Mount Carmel at the parish office. For more information, please call 718-278-1834 or email Neida Martinez at media@mountcarmelastoria.org.

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.

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 **Manuel Sanchez, Camila Sanchez, Mariano Sanchez, Margarita Garcia, Rafael Garcia, Mary Devitt, Rudi Roedenbeck Valderrama, Thomas Gannon, Alfredo Fernandez Solis, Indiana del Carmen Jaquez.**

DIGGING DEEPER INTO THE READINGS

First Reading

The prophet Malachi informs the priests of Israel that God is aware that their instruction has caused many to stumble in their faith. Have you ever had to help someone who has lost their faith?

Second Reading

Paul expresses his gratitude to the Thessalonians for their openness to hear and believe the word of God taught by them. Who in your life might be open to hearing the word of God from you?

Gospel Reading

Jesus challenged the crowds and his disciples to be as servants to each other, acting always in humility. How might you be a servant to someone at work or at home?

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.



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

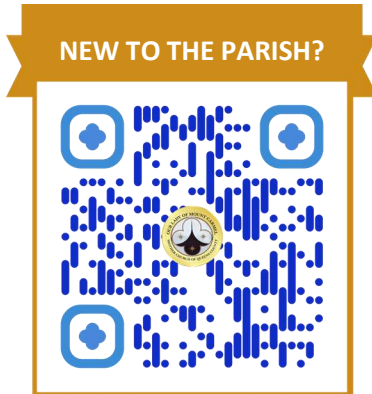
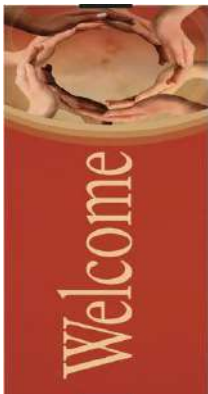
REGISTRACION PARROQUIAL

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.

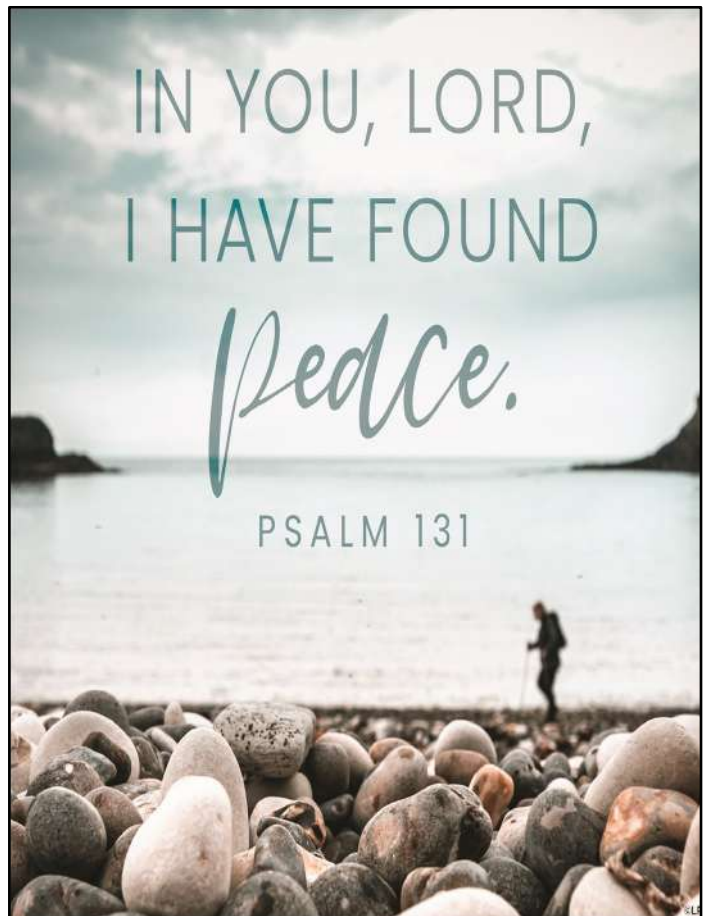
A major component of the program is the group discussions and feedback on how the points raised by the video presentations resonated with the participants experiences. All are welcome to join us!

November 4: What Happens at Death

November 18: What Heaven is Like

INFANT BAPTISM/ BAUTISMOS

Preparation Meeting	Baptism Ceremony
Tuesday—6:00pm—Institute	12:00pm— Upper Church
November 21, 2023	November 25, 2023
December 19, 2023	December 23, 2023
January 23, 2024	January 27, 2024
February 20, 2024	February 24, 2024
March 19, 2024	March 23, 2024
Reunión de Preparación	Ceremonia de Bautismo
Martes—6:00pm—Instituto	12:00pm—Iglesia de Arriba
5 de Diciembre, 2023	9 de Diciembre, 2023
9 de Enero, 2024	13 de Enero, 2024
20 de Febrero, 2024	24 de Febrero, 2024



27 WORDS THAT MATTER

"Mommy, you haven't been making any sacrifices."

My daughter was peering through the little opening in the plastic cover of the "sacrifice jar" we made for Lent this year. The repurposed oatmeal container, jazzed up with glitter glue and pictures of St. Therese of Lisieux, was more than half-filled with little slips of paper bearing descriptions of the various sacrifices family members had made for one another.

But she was right: every piece of paper bore the childlike scrawl of herself and her brother. I had not added anything to the sacrifice jar.

"If I wrote down every sacrifice I made for you in just a single day, the jar would explode," I retorted, and even though my daughter giggled, I instantly regretted the comment, sighing as I realized I did it again. I let a snide, self-pitying thought form on my lips and make its way into the world because for a brief moment I thought someone didn't appreciate my (imagine me sniffing injured here) hard work.

We sneer at the scribes and the Pharisees as Jesus describes them in the Gospel, lengthening their phylacteries and coveting the places of honor. But then I remember: nobody starts out meaning to be a jerk.

We want to do good things. We try to be holy. But it's hard, that burden weighs heavy on our back.

So, we murmur about it here and there. We stop to catch our breath. We glimpse other people looking at our burden with approval and admiration, and we breathe a little harder, groan a little deeper. And somewhere along the way the burden becomes an idol and our labor a performance. We dare not ask for help bearing it, for we prize too greatly the sweat of our own brow.

"The greatest among you must be your servant."-
Matthew 23:11

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Last Easter season a new convert to Catholicism at my parish asked me with a grave tone in her voice: "Why do we call priests 'father' if Jesus says, 'Call no man on earth your father, for you have one Father, who is in heaven'?" Thinking myself clever, I asked, "Do you think it's okay to call someone your 'teacher' or 'mister' or 'dad'?" She said, "Yes, I do." I responded, "Well, Jesus seems to forbid that, too. So, it's obviously hyperbole that he's using." She thought for a moment and declared, "Then I will stop using those words, too!" And she walked away. Not the outcome I was seeking.

We shouldn't be too hasty in dismissing this complaint voiced by many non-Catholics. The expression "father" for ordained priests is not honorary for the individual man. The priest's fatherhood doesn't begin or end in him at all. Rather, the title "father" indicates that he is a sacramental sign of God's Fatherhood revealed in Jesus. I can tell you, as a very unworthy bearer of that title, we should give and receive that title with some trepidation (because of God's awesomeness) and with a little sense of humor (because of the lowliness of the men with the title).

The longer I'm a priest, the more I'm comfortable with people not using the title "father" and just calling me "John." After all, only God is Father in the truest sense. At the same time, Jesus has brought the Father close to us, very close. We honor this closeness in some men with the title "father." Who are the priests in your life whom Christ has sent to you? How wonderful that Christ has surrounded us with humble signs of his Father's love. It's good to celebrate that love with gratitude for the priests in our lives. - Father John Muir



SAINT OF THE WEEK

Venerable Mother Henriette DeLille was a woman of faith, perseverance, and service who dedicated her life to the people of New Orleans. Her courage, compassion, and dedication to the oppressed was a shining example of what it means to live a life of service and love.

Prayer

O good and gracious God, You called Henriette Delille to give herself in service and in love to the slaves and the sick, to the orphan and the aged, to the forgotten and the despised.

Grant that inspired by her life, we might be renewed in heart and in mind. If it be Your will may she one day be raised to the honor of sainthood. By her prayers, may we live in harmony and peace, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



JOIN OUR YOUTH GROUP

EVERY FRIDAY AT 7:00PM
GUADALUPE ROOM

- JOIN US FOR
- * DISCUSSIONS
 - * ACTIVITIES/ ICE BREAKERS
 - * COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS
 - * HOLY HOURS
 - * SPORT NIGHTS



Coordinators: Mr. Dayonel Mejia & Ms. Yolanda Lazo

YOUTH

HOLY HOURS

~~October 6th - Our Lady of Hope at 7 PM, 41-27 71st Street, Queens, NY 11379~~

~~November 3rd - St. Clare at 7 PM - 137-35 Brookville Blvd, Queens, NY 11422~~

December 1st - St. Finbar- 138 Bay 20th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11214

January 12th - W/WYD Reunion- Holy Family, 175-20 74th Avenue, Queens, NY 11366

February 2nd - St. Bernard's- 2055 E 69th St, Brooklyn, NY 11234

March 1st - Incarnation Parish- 89-43 Francis Lewis Blvd, Queens, NY 11427

April 12th- Ss. Peter & Paul Catholic Church- 288 Berry Street, Brooklyn, NY 11249

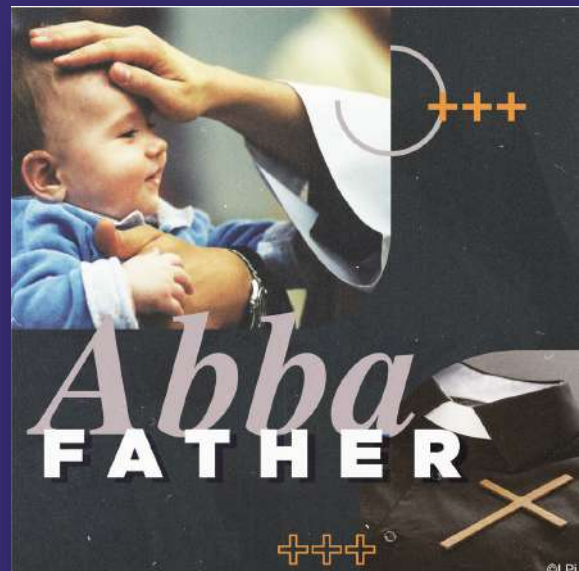
May 3th - Mary's Nativity - St. Ann Parish- 4602 Parsons Blvd, Queens, NY 11355

June 7th- Holy Family-St Thomas Aquinas- 249 9th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215

WHY DO SOME SACRAMENTS LEAVE A CHARACTER OR MARK ON THE SOUL? DON'T ALL SACRAMENTS AFFECT THE SOUL?

All sacraments mediate grace and connect us to Christ and to the Church. Some sustain us in our faith journey, while others help us heal from the effects of sin. Each one offers a share in God's life, giving us what we need to be faithful followers of Jesus. But some sacraments change us in ways that are irreversible. The three sacraments that leave a character are Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. We are literally different people because of the effect of the grace of those sacraments. We are changed at the core of our being in such a fundamental way that we can not go back to what we once were.

In Baptism, we are freed from original sin, initiated into the Body of Christ as adopted sons and daughters. In Confirmation, we are given the fullness of God's Spirit, sealed in his grace and gifted with what we need to live a Christian life. In Holy Orders, a priest is marked as an 'alter Christus,' another Christ, and is once and forever a priest who offers sacrifice, forgives sin, and acts in the person of Christ. In these three sacraments, we are conformed more closely to Christ, reflecting his love and truth.





Project Andrew is an opportunity for young men (high school age and older) to learn more about the priesthood. Join bishops, priests, and seminarians from the Diocese of Brooklyn with Vocation Director, Fr. Chris Bethge, for an evening of prayer, dinner, and conversation.



"If today you hear His voice, harden not your hearts." Psalm 95:8

Join us for Project Andrew Evening of Discernment

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Nov. 19, 2023, 4 - 6 p.m.

2325 Newtown Ave, Astoria Ph: 718-278-1834



Special Guest:
Bishop Robert Brennan

"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, plans for your welfare and not for woe, plans to give you a future full of hope." Jeremiah 29:11

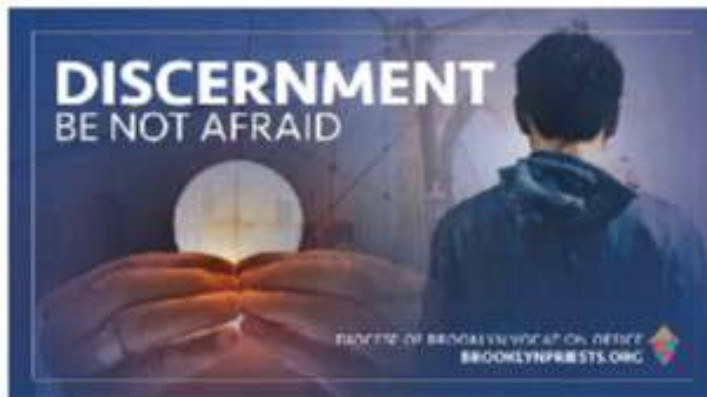


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Rev. Christopher Bethge, Vocation Director
Diocese of Brooklyn, Vocation Office
Vocation Office: 718-827-2454
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OFFICE OF BROOKLYN VOCATION SERVICE
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SAINTS NOT SUPERHEROES

Many saints struggled with temptations; some even led very sinful lives prior to their conversions. As St. Paul said, "I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate" (Rom 7:15).

What does this tell us about holiness? We become holy not despite our weakness, but because of it. Only when we confess our sinfulness can we truly open ourselves to God's all-powerful grace.

As a Catholic striving for virtue, especially if you are considering religious life or the priesthood, falling into sin can be very discouraging. Even more discouraging is that we fall into the same sins over and over again. Sometimes that can lead to hopelessness: "I just can't do this; I give up! I am not holy enough..." And of course, that's exactly how the Evil One wants us to feel.

At times like these, look to Jesus, whipped and bleeding, carrying His cross, falling into the dirt, yet rising again to struggle on further, only to fall and get up again and again; and all this is done for you.



A saint is not a superhero -he doesn't have inherent superpowers, but must rely on the grace of God.

Holiness does not mean you will never sin. It means you throw yourself on God's mercy when you do. It means never giving up on God's limitless love. It means going to Confession as often as you need to, confident in the cleansing grace of the sacrament.

Sometimes we can go too far in the other direction, believing that if we just try hard enough, we can become holy by our own power. We might even quote the famous passage from Hebrews: "In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood." Taking this passage out of context, we can think to ourselves, "Well, I just didn't try hard enough. This all depends on me!" Then we clench our teeth and go off trying to become holy all by ourselves. But this is the heresy of Pelagianism, the idea that perfection is attainable without the assistance of God's grace.

You can't do it alone, and it is likely that you will continue to struggle with sin and fall at times; but always remember that in God's amazing plan, His grace can overpower your sins and help you pick up your cross again! As Catholics, we recognize this great mystery every year at the Easter Vigil, singing, "O happy fault! O necessary sin of Adam that gained for us so great a Redeemer."

Yes, we need to strive for virtue.

No, God's grace isn't an excuse to sin.

Yes, we need to train our wills to love the good. No, we can't earn our place in heaven or save ourselves.

The point is that working toward holiness does not mean you will necessarily attain perfection in this life. Rather, salvation comes through God alone, who is ready to forgive you every time you fall. "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness," St. Paul reminds us. "Therefore I will boast most gladly of my weakness, in order that the power of Christ may dwell within me" (2 Cor. 12:9).

IM 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

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