

A fisherman is shown from behind, pulling a large, golden-brown fishing net from the sea. The net is filled with small fish and is being held up by the fisherman's arms. The background is a bright, hazy sunset over the ocean, with the sun low on the horizon. The overall color palette is warm, with shades of orange, yellow, and brown.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# COME AFTER ME.

— MARK 1:17 —

## OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024

# 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)

## RELIGIOUS ED COORDINATOR

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

## OFFICE RECEPTIONIST

Luis Sanchez Ext. 110  
[Lsanchez@diobrook.org](mailto:Lsanchez@diobrook.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](mailto:music@mountcarmelastoria.org)

## Youth Minister

Dayonel Mejia  
[YouthMinister@mountcarmelastoria.org](mailto:YouthMinister@mountcarmelastoria.org)

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 20 (*Saint Fabian & Saint Sebastian*)

5:00pm Natale Forzano, Emma Faytaren,  
Mercedes Beck (*Birthday Memorial*),  
Mercedes & Antonio Hernandez,  
Aurelia Moreno & Ariel Moyano

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 (*Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*)

8:00am Paulina Ramos  
9:00am in memoria di Gaspare Barretta nel  
suo 77mo. compleanno  
9:30am En Honor a La Señora de la Altagracia  
11:00am Souls of Nacinovich & Mejia Families  
12:30pm Ofelia Castro Diaz, Maria Paula Lema,  
Jose Antonio Lema Chimborazo,  
Leonida Soresca, Lucille Mascia (*Vive*),  
Leobarda Valencia (*Feliz Cumpleaños*)  
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

### MONDAY, JANUARY 22

#### (*Day of Prayer for the Protection for Unborn Children*)

8:00am Viola Lucente  
12:00pm Armando Rodriguez

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

#### (*Saint Vincent & Saint Marianne Cope*)

8:00am Leonardo & Giuseppina Grippi  
12:00pm Assunta & Rocco D'Angelo

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24 (*Saint Francis de Sales*)

8:00am Liam Bliven (*Living—Birthday*)  
12:00pm For the Protection of the Unborn

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 25 (*The Conversion of Saint Paul*)

8:00am Sabbia & Raffaele Carullo and Family  
12:00pm Deceased Members of the Pham Family

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 26 (*Saint Timothy & Saint Titus*)

8:00am Keith Anthony Miller  
12:00pm Salvatore & Antonina Leto

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 (*Saint Angela Merici*)

8:00am Francesco & Maria Nicola Del Greco  
5:00pm John Thu Pham (3rd Anniversary),  
Susan & Cettina Camenzuli, Marta Cutaia,  
Arthur "Artie" Paparo, Luz Go

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 (*Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*)

8:00am Nancy Orellana  
9:00am Ernesto DiMonte  
9:30am Francisco Jose Marcial  
11:00am Mario Nacinovich (*Memorial*)  
12:30pm Damiano Valencia, Ercilia Vidal (10 Mes),  
Celestino Garcia Garcia (14 Aniversario),  
Ermelindo Garcia Bravo,  
Guadalupe Paez (*Vive*)  
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

## MEMORIAL OF THE WEEK



*The Altar Bread & Wine and Sanctuary Lamp are being offered for Salvatore & Antonina Leto, by Maria Barretta*



*The Altar Candles are being offered for Gaspare Barretta, by Anthony, Rosalia, Margherita, Charlie*

## SECOND COLLECTIONS

**January 21:** There will be a second collection after communion for our Parish Maintenance. Your generosity enables use to maintain our parish spaces in good condition for your use.





## MASS SCHEDULE

<b>Saturday</b>	5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)
<b>Sunday</b>	<i>Main Church:</i> 8:00 AM (English) 9:30 AM (Spanish) 11:00 AM (English) 12:30 PM (Spanish) 3:00 PM (Vietnamese) <i>Chapel:</i> 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

## PARISH REGISTRATION

We encourage all who worship with us to consider registering to our parish. This will enable our parish to serve your needs better. Please return this form in the collection or drop it off at the parish office. Your participation will strengthen 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

## TRIUMPH IN GENEROSITY



# Annual Catholic Appeal 2023

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

We are happy to announce that our parish's contribution to the 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal (ACA) has not only met but surpassed our goal of \$67,815, reaching an inspiring grand total of \$80,388, pledged by 200 of our dedicated parishioners.



Impressively, only \$1,865 of this total remains outstanding! It is exciting to know that any amount exceeding our goal comes back to our parish, and in this case, it amounts to \$8,121—a significant sum that we can utilize as per our parish's needs.

We want to extend my deepest thanks to each one of you for your generosity and commitment. Your contributions reflect not just financial support, but a profound investment in the life and mission of our church. This achievement is a testament to the strength and unity of our parish community. Thank you for being a vital part of our parish's journey of faith and service.

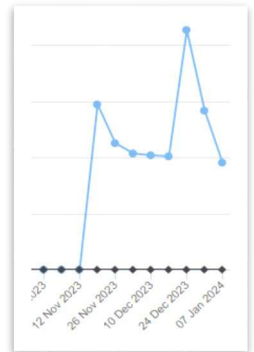
**Msgr. Cuong M. Pham, Rev. Michael McHugh, Rev. Hung S. Tran**

# Welcome



## MASS ATTENDANCE RECORD

Weekend of January 1/7	Number of Attendees
Saturday English Vigil 5:00pm	121
Sunday English 8:00am	91
9:00am Italian	17
9:30am Bilingual	121
10:00am Czech	16
English 11:00am	211
12:30pm Spanish	306
3:00pm Vietnamese	71



## WEEKLY MASS OFFERINGS

### REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS

Last Sunday: \$5,625      Same Week Last Year: \$5,620

### FAITH DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS

December 2022: \$4,047      December 2023: \$10,231



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we gather for the Holy Eucharist on this Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Holy Scripture readings at Mass present a tapestry of divine calls and human responses. These ancient texts are not merely historical accounts; they are living words that speak directly to our lives today, inviting us to consider the urgency and immediacy of God's call and our response to it.

In the Book of Jonah, we meet a prophet who initially fled from God's call, only to ultimately embrace it and witness the transformative power of God's word in Nineveh (cf. Jonah 3:1-5, 10). In his letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul urges us to live in the present moment, recognizing the fleeting nature of this world and the eternal significance of our actions (cf. 1 Corinthians 7:29-31). In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus calls His first disciples, who immediately leave their nets to follow Him (cf. Mark 1:14-20). These powerful narratives all convey a singular, transformative message: God calls us to conversion and a renewed way of life.

This month of January, dedicated to the sanctity of human life, deepens our reflection on these Scriptures. We are reminded of the sacredness of every human life, from natural conception to natural death. Being pro-life is not a mere moral obligation but a profound expression of our Christian faith, reflecting God's boundless love and the inherent dignity He bestows upon each person. It is a concrete call to action, a commitment to safeguard the vulnerable and voiceless, especially the unborn.

On a personal note, this weekend holds a deeply emotional significance for me. This past Friday, January 19, marked the third anniversary of my father's passing. In Vietnamese culture, this anniversary is traditionally seen as the end of the mourning period. It's a time when life's normal rhythms are supposed to resume. Yet, for me, the passage of time hasn't brought closure. The loss remains fresh, like a wound that has not fully healed, challenging the notion that time heals all wounds.

Coincidentally, this year the Annual March for Life in Washington, DC, falls on the same day as my father's anniversary. As a staunch advocate for life, my father always found great consolation in that event, rejoicing to see hundreds of thousands of Christians, Catholics, and others converge in the nation's capital to affirm the sanctity of life. He prayed countless Rosaries for the unborn children and for all mothers and fathers in difficulty, with the hope that society will one day become civilized enough to embrace all life. His pro-life stance was not just a matter of faith but a deeply personal conviction. As I recall his memory, I find solace in continuing his legacy, standing for the protection and dignity of all human life.

I invite you, dear brothers and sisters, to join me in recommitting to this vital cause. Let us be grateful for every life and strive to build a culture of life and love where everyone is accepted, welcomed, and protected. This commitment means advocating for the unborn and caring for the marginalized, vulnerable, and those in need of our love and support.

May the Word of God this Sunday inspire us all to respond to the divine call with the same promptness as the Apostles showed. May this month's focus on the sanctity of human life serve as a constant reminder to pray for the protection of life, particularly that of the unborn in the womb. And when you pray for the defenders of life that you may know, I ask that you also remember to include my dad, John Thu Pham. Thank you!

In Christ's love,

**Msgr. Cuong M. Pham**

toma a tu cargo  
a los niños no  
nacidos del mundo.



Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

Al reunirnos para celebrar la Santa Eucaristía en este Tercer Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario, las lecturas de la Sagrada Escritura en la Misa nos presentan un hermoso tapiz de llamados divinos y respuestas humanas. Estos textos antiguos no son solo relatos históricos; son palabras vivas que hoy día hablan directamente a nuestras vidas, invitándonos a reflexionar sobre la urgencia e inmediatez del llamado de Dios y cómo respondemos a él.

En el Libro de Jonás, encontramos a un profeta que al principio huyó del llamado de Dios, pero que finalmente lo aceptó y fue testigo del poder transformador de la palabra de Dios en Nínive (cf. Jonás 3:1-5, 10). En su carta a los Corintios, San Pablo nos insta a vivir plenamente el presente, reconociendo la naturaleza efímera de este mundo y la significancia eterna de nuestras acciones (cf. 1 Corintios 7:29-31). Y en el Evangelio de Marcos, vemos a Jesús llamando a Sus primeros discípulos, quienes de inmediato dejan sus redes para seguirlo (cf. Marcos 1:14-20). Estas poderosas narrativas nos transmiten un mensaje único y transformador: Dios nos llama a la conversión y a una vida renovada.

Este mes de enero, dedicado a la santidad de la vida humana, nos invita a profundizar nuestra reflexión sobre estas Escrituras. Nos recuerda la sacralidad de cada vida humana, desde la concepción natural hasta la muerte natural. Ser pro-vida no es solo una obligación moral, sino una profunda expresión de nuestra fe cristiana, un reflejo del amor inmenso de Dios y la dignidad inherente que Él otorga a cada persona. Es un llamado concreto a la acción, un compromiso de proteger a los más vulnerables y sin voz, en especial a los no nacidos.

En lo personal, este fin de semana tiene un significado emocionalmente profundo para mí. Este pasado viernes, 19 de enero, se cumplió el tercer aniversario del fallecimiento de mi padre. En la cultura vietnamita, este aniversario marca tradicionalmente el fin del periodo de luto, un tiempo para retomar los ritmos normales de la vida. Sin embargo, para mí, el paso del tiempo no ha traído cierre. La pérdida sigue siendo reciente, como una herida que no ha sanado completamente, desafiando la idea de que el tiempo cura todas las heridas.

Este año, por coincidencia, la Marcha Anual por la Vida en Washington, DC, ocurrió el mismo día del aniversario de mi padre. Como ferviente defensor de la vida, mi padre siempre encontró gran consuelo en ese evento, alegrándose de ver a cientos de miles de cristianos, católicos y otras personas unirse para afirmar la santidad de la vida. Oraba incontables Rosarios por los niños no nacidos y por todas las madres y padres enfrentando dificultades, con la esperanza de que algún día nuestra sociedad sea lo suficientemente civilizada para abrazar toda vida. Su postura pro-vida no era solo una cuestión de fe, sino una convicción profundamente personal. Al recordar su memoria, encuentro consuelo en continuar su legado, defendiendo la protección y dignidad de toda vida humana.

Les invito, queridos hermanos y hermanas, a unirse a mí en reafirmar nuestro compromiso con esta causa vital. Agradecemos por cada vida y esforcémonos por construir una cultura de vida y amor donde cada individuo sea aceptado, bienvenido y protegido. Este compromiso significa abogar por los no nacidos y cuidar de los marginados, vulnerables y aquellos que necesitan nuestro amor y apoyo.

Que la Palabra de Dios nos inspire a todos a responder al llamado divino con la misma prontitud que mostraron los Apóstoles. Que el enfoque de este mes en la santidad de la vida humana nos sirva de recordatorio constante para orar por la protección de toda vida, en particular la de los no nacidos en el vientre materno. Y cuando oren por los defensores de la vida que puedan conocer, les pido que también recuerden incluir a mi padre Juan Thu Pham. ¡Muchísimas gracias!

Con el amor de Cristo,  
**Mons. Cuong M. Pham**



# THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

## 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 **Frances Camisa**.

## 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 Minda Balhman, Ralph Vitacco, Leonida Soresca, Eugenio Acevedo, Wasyl Bodnar & Lillie Bonanno, Jalil Illera, and our pastor's father, John Thu Pham, on his third anniversary of entrance into eternal life.

## JOIN FAITH DIRECT FOR E-GIVING

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](http://faith.direct/NY370)
- \* Call the parish office at 718.278.1834
- \* Scan the QR code
- \* Text "Enroll" to 929.254.3850



## DIOCESAN YOUTH HOLY HOURS

The Diocese of Brooklyn & Queens invites all youth and young adults and their families to their monthly Youth Holy Hours. Below are the upcoming dates and locations. For more information please call the parish office.

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| February 2, 2024 | St. Bernard, 2055 E 69 Street,<br>Brooklyn              |
| March 1, 2024    | Incarnation, 89-43 Francis Lewis Blvd.<br>Queens        |
| April 12, 2024   | Ss. Peter & Paul, 228 Berry Street.<br>Brooklyn         |
| May 3, 2024      | Mary's Nativity/St. Ann, 4602 Parsons Blvd.<br>Queens   |
| June 7, 2024     | Holy Family/St. Thomas Aquinas, 249 9th St.<br>Brooklyn |

## ROSARY SOCIETY

The next Rosary Society meeting will be held on February 4th, starting at 10:00am in the Lourdes Room. All ladies over 15 years old are welcomed. Refreshments will be served. Bring a friend!



## ASK THE VOCATION DIRECTOR!

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 at 718-827-2454 or email [cbethge@cathedralprep.org](mailto:cbethge@cathedralprep.org)



### Sunday, January 21

8:00am—12:00pm	Our Lady of Altagracia	Gym
10:00am—12:00pm	Czech Community	Lourdes A/B
10:00am—12:00pm	Spanish OCIA	Fatima
10:30am—12:30pm	Cursillo	Guadalupe A/B
1:00pm—8:00pm	Msgr. Pham's Event	Guadalupe A/B
6:00pm—8:00pm	Sagrado Corazon Meeting	Lourdes A/B

### Tuesday, January 23

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

### Wednesday, January 24

4:00pm—7:30pm	Religious Education	All Rooms
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### Thursday, January 25

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

### Friday, January 26

6:00pm—9:00pm	Convivio Guadalupano	Guadalupe A/B
6:30pm—9:00pm	Practica de Instrumentos	Upper Room
6:30pm—9:00pm	Youth Night	Gym
7:00pm—9:00pm	English OCIA	Fatima

### Saturday, January 27

9:00am—1:00pm	AA Meeting	Guadalupe A/B
10:00am—12:00pm	Spanish Children's Choir	Fatima
5:00pm—7:00pm	Spanish Choir	Nazareth
6:30pm—8:00pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	Fatima

## 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!

**January 27: Blessing Same-Sex Couples—  
Summary & Clarification**

## 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

## CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

If you need a contribution statement for the year 2023 for your tax return, please call the parish office and leave your name and envelope number. Your statement can be printed and left in the front office to be picked up or mailed to your home.

— END OF YEAR —  
**GIVING**  
 STATEMENTS

## 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, February 2nd, 2024**. 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.



## INFANT BAPTISM/ BAUTISMOS

Preparation Meeting	Baptism Ceremony
<b>Tuesday—6:00pm—Institute</b>	<b>12:00pm— Upper Church</b>
January 23, 2024	January 27, 2024
February 20, 2024	February 24, 2024
March 19, 2024	March 23, 2024
April 23, 2024	April 27, 2024
May TBA	May TBA
June— NO CLASS	No English Baptisms
July 23, 2024	July 27, 2024
August 20, 2024	August 24, 2024
September 24, 2024	September 28, 2024
October 22, 2024	October 26, 2024
November 19, 2024	November 23, 2024
December 17, 2024	December 21, 2024

Reunión de Preparación	Ceremonia de Bautismo
<b>Martes—6:00pm—Instituto</b>	<b>12:00pm—Iglesia de Arriba</b>
9 de Enero, 2024	13 de Enero, 2024
6 de Febrero, 2024	10 de Febrero, 2024
5 de Marzo, 2024	9 de Marzo, 2024
<b>Abril TBA</b>	<b>Abril TBA</b>
<b>Mayo TBA</b>	<b>Mayo TBA</b>
4 de Junio	8 de Junio
9 de Julio	13 de Julio
6 de Agosto	10 de Agosto
10 de Septiembre	14 de Septiembre
8 de Octubre	12 de Octubre
5 de Noviembre	9 de Noviembre
10 de Diciembre	14 de Diciembre

**Baptism**

# JOIN OUR YOUTH GROUP

EVERY FRIDAY AT 7:00PM  
GUADALUPE ROOM

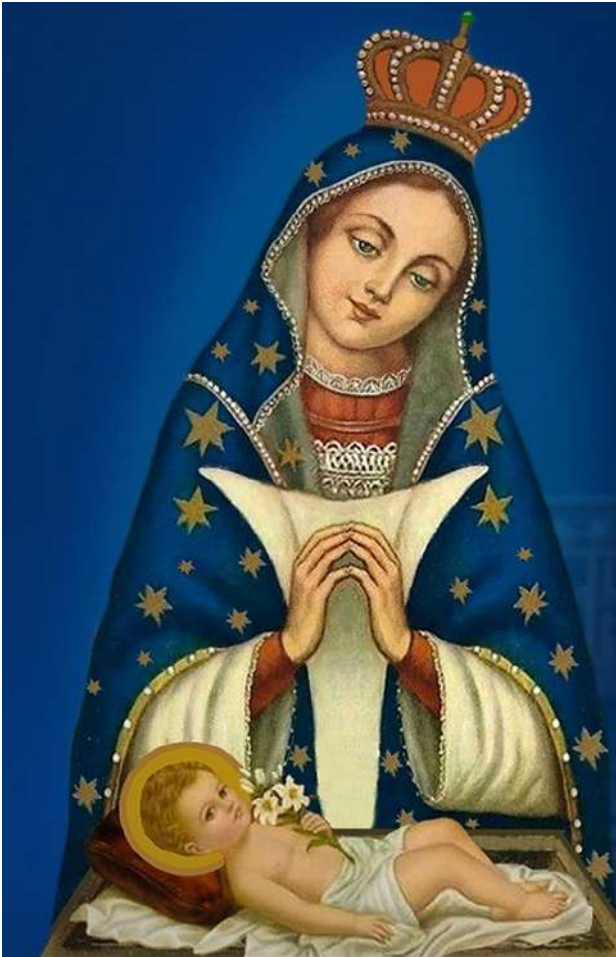
JOIN US FOR

- \* **DISCUSSIONS**
- \* **ACTIVITIES/ ICE BREAKERS**
- \* **COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS**
- \* **HOLY HOURS**
- \* **SPORT NIGHTS**



Coordinators: Mr. Dayonel Mejia & Ms. Yolanda Lazo





# Nuestra Señora de la **ALTAGRACIA** 21 Enero

The Our Lady of Mount Carmel Altagracia Committee would like to invite everyone to the Mass in honor of *Our Lady of Altagracia*, Protectress of the Dominican Republic, on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30am.

It will be followed by a breakfast, courtesy of the committee, in the Institute across the street from the church.

**\*We will be selling raffle tickets for beautiful gift baskets!  
Raffles will be sold by the entrances of the church and at the event.**

\*\*\*\*\*

El Comité Altagraciano de Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo les invita a toda la comunidad a la Misa en honor a *La Virgen de la Altagracia*, Protectora y Guía Espiritual del Pueblo Dominicano, el 21 de enero, a las 9:30am.

Después seguimos con un desayuno cortesía del Comité, en el Instituto al cruzar la calle de la Iglesia.

**\*Venderemos boletos de rifa para unas excelentes canastas!  
Boletos serán vendidos por las entradas de la Iglesia y en el evento**

## SANCTITY OF LIFE MONTH



January is the month dedicated to the sanctity of all human life, from conception to natural death. These days, it is particularly meaningful to us Catholics since our nation is preparing for another election this fall. In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue; participation in the political process is a moral obligation. All believers are called to faithful citizenship, to become informed, active, and responsible participants in the political process. The U.S. Bishops *"encourage all citizens, particularly Catholics, to embrace their citizenship not merely*

*as a duty and privilege, but as an opportunity meaningfully to participate more fully in building the culture of life."* Every voice matters in the public forum. Every vote counts. Even those who are not citizens are called to participate in the debates which shape our common life. It is never wrong to be on the side of life.

## MES DE LA SANTIDAD DE LA VIDA



Enero es el mes dedicado a la santidad de toda vida humana, desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural. Estos días, es particularmente significativo para nosotros, los Católicos, ya que nuestra nación se está preparando para una otra elección el próximo otoño. En la tradición Católica, la ciudadanía responsable es una virtud; la participación en el proceso político es una obligación moral. Todos los creyentes están llamados a una ciudadanía

fiel, a informarse, ser activos y responsables en el proceso político. Los obispos de los Estados Unidos *"animan a todos los ciudadanos, en particular a los Católicos, a abrazar su ciudadanía no solo como un deber y privilegio, sino como una oportunidad para participar de manera significativa en la construcción de la cultura de la vida"*. Cada voz importa en el foro público. Cada voto cuenta. Incluso aquellos que no son ciudadanos están llamados a participar en los debates que dan forma a nuestra vida común. Nunca está mal estar del lado de la vida.

## CAN A PERSON (THE MOTHER, FATHER, OR PROVIDER) EVER BE FORGIVEN FOR AN ABORTION?

For people of faith, any conversation of human sinfulness should always lead us to reflect on God's loving mercy. Because God's mercy is greater than any sin, the Church is clear that even those involved in the sin of abortion can be reconciled with God and the Church. To help make this grace more available through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Pope Francis extended the permission to absolve someone of the sin of abortion to all priests in 2016.

Even with the grace and blessings of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the tragedy of abortion and the aftermath of abortion takes a toll on everyone involved. Ministries of outreach and support, such as Project Rachel, offer pastoral counseling, support groups, retreats, and other forms of care.

As Christians, we are also called to help promote this healing and reconciliation in all its forms.



### DIGGING DEEPER INTO SUNDAY'S READINGS

#### First Reading

The people of Nineveh (the capital city of the Assyrian Empire and historic enemy of Israel) repented of their sins when they heard Jonah's warning of God's impending destruction of their city. What motivates you to repent?

#### Second Reading

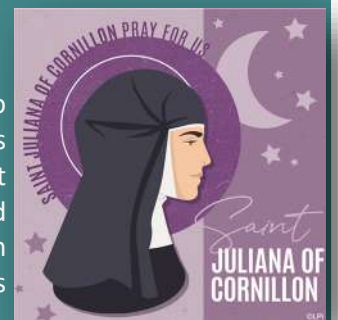
Paul encouraged the believers in Corinth to live with a sense of urgency and in a radically different way than before coming to faith in Jesus. In what way are you living counter-culturally as a person of faith?

#### Gospel Reading

This Sunday we hear the first words of Jesus in Mark's account of the call of the first disciples: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel" Jesus taught that the time had come for God to come and reclaim His world. What excites you about this message?

### SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. Juliana of Cornillon, also known as St. Juliana of Liège, is remembered for her steadfast devotion to the Eucharist and her instrumental role in establishing the Feast of Corpus Christi.



The disciples were fishing when Christ found them, hard at work to support their families, casting their nets into the sea. Sometimes when God calls us, we are in the middle of something else. Don't be afraid to change your plans to follow Him.

#### Prayer of Discipleship

Dear Jesus, When you call to me, help me to listen. Give me the courage to respond bravely and boldly to your invitation for my life. Amen.

*Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

## GOSPEL MEDITATION

We start telling lies around the age of three, the experts tell us. It's understandable. Lying is a god-like power. I need only say whatever I want, and the world rearranges itself accordingly. It's amazing at first. But soon reality snaps back and I'm faced with a dilemma. If I remain committed to my lie I start to fracture into pieces. My words and reality drift apart, and I find myself lost in a lonely world of further falsehoods and fear of being found out. How marvelous, then, that Jesus begins his ministry by proclaiming: "Repent!" We tend to think it means "stop doing bad things" but it doesn't. It literally means "go beyond the mind you have." Think in a new way. It's painful to admit, but some portion of my mind is addicted to lie-telling, usually to protect my ego or make life easier. To repent means to admit this tendency, to say, "I'm done lying," and to move beyond my split mind into a complete commitment to the truth. Perhaps that's why at Mass we proclaim, "I have sinned in my thoughts and my words..." Repentance and truth-telling work together.

Those who know the twelve-step process of addiction recovery know this process well. The fourth step requires radical truth-telling: listing our moral defects. This isn't being scrupulous. Rather it is freedom from falsehood and entrance into the real world. This week, I invite you to join me in this practice. Get your phone or piece of paper. Answer the question: what are your true moral defects? Write them down. Remember, the Lord knows them already and loves you. We have a sacrament where this truth-telling is celebrated: Confession. Perhaps it is finally time to go beyond our childish lies.

*Father John Muir*



## A GOOD TIME FOR FULFILLMENT

Some things always come at the worst time. I've never gotten a telemarketing call and thought, "This is a convenient moment for me to listen to a sales pitch." I've never seen the compulsory software update notice flash on my computer screen when I didn't have a deadline I was struggling to meet. My kids never come down with the flu unless it's the weekend and the line at Urgent Care is stretching out the door.

And I never, ever feel the calm, persistent shoulder-tap of the Holy Spirit without thinking, "Now? Now is not a good time. Can you try again when I'm..."

But then I stop and think: when I am what? When I am stronger? When I am happier? When I am smarter? When I am a different person?

When God calls us, He calls the person He sees in front of Him. "Come on," He says, and He doesn't mean "When you're finished" or "When it's convenient" or "Think about it." He means now. This moment.

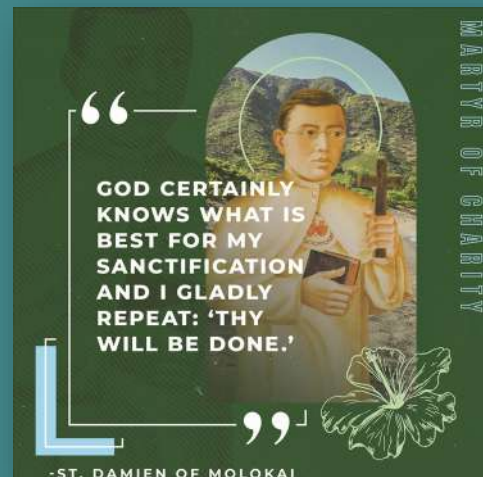
This is what Paul is saying when he writes that "the world in its present form is passing away." He is saying that your plans mean nothing, the kingdom of God is at hand.

Abandon your nets, let your catch escape into the sea. You're not who you thought you were, and you don't need what you thought you needed.

Your sins do not define you. Your fears are not fate. Your inclinations do not govern you. Your life can be changed. We live in the time of fulfillment, and fulfillment is coming for you ready or not.

"Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: 'This is the time of fulfillment.'" - Mark 1:14

*Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*



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