



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT



Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area. - Jn 2:13b-15a

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH MANAGER

Celeste Stewart, Ext. 111
cstewart@diobrook.org
church@mountcarmelastoria.org

RELIGIOUS ED COORDINATOR

Nelly Gutierrez, Ext. 114
reled@mountcarmelastoria.org
ccdmountcarmel@gmail.com

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST

Luis Sanchez Ext. 110
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

Youth Minister

Dayonel Mejia
YouthMinister@mountcarmelastoria.org

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

5:00pm Rolando Ortiz, Solita Rueda, Leda Carencia,
Augusto Santos (*Living—For Healing*)
Alexandre Ndione (*Living—In Thanksgiving*)

SUNDAY, MARCH 3 (*Third Sunday of Lent*)

8:00am The Living & Deceased Members of
Our Parish's Rosary Society
9:00am Barbara Devis
9:30am Miguel Carlos Fuentes
11:00am Memorial for Unborn Nacinovich Children
12:30pm Claudio Roldan, Santiago Carty Reyes,
Alicia Vargas, Zaida Palaguachi (*8 Aniversario*)
Trinidad Palaguachi & Dolores Guaman,
Rafael Gómez Domínguez (*4 Aniversario*),
Por el Bienestar del Diacono Jacob y Elenita Rodríguez
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, MARCH 4

8:00am Gapare Barretta
12:00pm Rocco, Assunta & Rachele D'Angelo

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

8:00am Jessica Mennona (*10th Anniversary in Heaven*)
12:00pm Maria & Carmelo Cini

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

8:00am Giuseppa & Vincenzo Barretta and Family
12:00pm Joseph Ricci

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

8:00am Mario Carullo
12:00pm Mary Cini (*1st Anniversary*) & Carmelo Cini

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

8:00am For all Souls in Purgatory
12:00pm Concepcion Monson

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

8:00am Alvin Trusty & The Berrocal Family
5:00pm Nicola Telesmanic (*3rd Anniversary*)

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

8:00am Luis Sanchez (*Living—Birthday*)
9:00am Leonardo DiVittorio
9:30am Domingo Antonio Nuñez (*22 Anniversary*)
11:00am Frank & Nicoletta Todisco
12:30pm Jose Antonio Centeno, Maximino Sterling,
Hoover Garcia Orejuela, Geovany Castro,
Soledad Lozano Sterling, Por Todas Las Almas
del Purgatorio, y en Celebracion de los
18 años de Yarimariel Melchor
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

WEEKLY OFFERING

The Altar Bread & Wine are being offered for Nicola Telesmanic on his 3rd Anniversary, by Matilda, Angelko & Nicholas Telesmanic

Dedicated offerings can be reserved every week in honor or in memory of a loved one. You can reserve by visiting the parish office.

Altar Candles: \$15.00 Sanctuary Lamp: \$25.00
Altar Bread & Wine \$35.00 Altar Flowers: \$100.00

SECOND COLLECTIONS

March 10: There will be a second collection after communion for Catholic Relief Services. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

March 17: There will be a second collection after communion, for your Easter Gift to the parish. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday	5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)
Sunday	Main Church: 8:00 AM (English) 9:30 AM (Bilingual) 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

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

2024 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

Annual Catholic Appeal 2024

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

We thank all who contributed to the 2023 Annual Catholic Appeal. A total of \$85,397 has been pledged by 204 parishioners and what remains to be collected is \$1,451. Once all monies are collected, \$17,582 will remain in the parish to be used to finance parochial projects which will benefit the people of our parish.

This week begins the 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal. We encourage everyone to view the 2024 ACA video online at www.CFBQ.org/ACAVideo.

Your contributions to the Annual Catholic Appeal make a significant impact, aiding individuals in Brooklyn & Queens in ways beyond the capacity of any single parish.

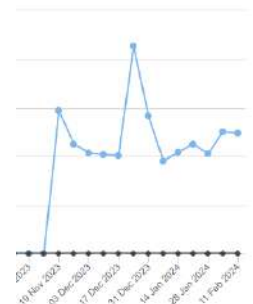
Let us pray for the success of the 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal, envisioning a triumph that not only empowers us to extend love to those in need but also enables our hearts to respond to Jesus, who calls us to be in Communion, Participation & Mission.

We invite you to stand with your parish in supporting the 2024 Annual Catholic Appeal. To donate, visit www.AnnualCatholicAppeal.org or text **DONATE** to **917.336.1255**.

MASS ATTENDANCE RECORD

Weekend of February 24/25 Number of Attendees

Saturday English Vigil 5:00pm	134
Sunday English 8:00am	108
9:00am Italian	22
9:30am Bilingual	118
10:00am Czech	22
English 11:00am	248
12:30pm Spanish	359
3:00pm Vietnamese	40



WEEKLY MASS OFFERINGS

REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS

Last Sunday: \$5,434 Same Week Last Year: \$5,519

FAITH DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS

January 2023: \$5,901 January 2024: \$5,907

PRAY
IS LOVE FOR GOD
FAST
IS LOVE FOR YOURSELF
GIVE
IS LOVE FOR OTHERS

Dear friends in Christ,

As we mark the midpoint of Lent during this third week, we are reminded that our journey of penance and reflection is far from over. Lent challenges us to break free from our spiritual routines, urging us to embrace change and to seek a renewal that propels us towards the ultimate goal of perfection in the image of our heavenly Father, as urged by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:48).

In this season of transformation, the Church wisely guides us towards prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, three pillars that support our quest for spiritual perfection. Yet, while prayer and fasting are embraced with enthusiasm, almsgiving frequently remains the less trodden path, often overlooked and underappreciated. This omission is not for lack of need or opportunity but perhaps stems from a misunderstanding of its value and the joy it brings.

Almsgiving, fundamentally, is the act of giving to those in need, whether through monetary donations, food, or other goods. This practice is a profound exercise in detachment, reminding us that material wealth is not our ultimate goal. More than a personal discipline, almsgiving is inherently social, emphasizing the relational nature of our faith. It is an expression of love, a visible sign of our commitment to the welfare of others, mirroring the self-giving love of God. In doing so, we live out the commandment that what we do for the least among us, we do for Christ Himself (Mt 25:40).

The Gospel reading for the third Sunday of Lent, John 2:13-25, presents Jesus cleansing the Temple, an act of zeal for His Father's house. Jesus's actions disrupt the routine, challenging the status quo and calling for a return to authentic worship and devotion. This passage invites us to consider our own practices of faith, including almsgiving, as expressions of our zeal for God's house. Just as Jesus sought to purify the temple, we are called to purify our intentions and actions, making them true offerings to God.

Choosing whom to support through almsgiving can seem daunting given the myriad of worthy causes. Yet, it is precisely in making these choices that we can find a deeper connection to our faith and the world around us. By aligning our almsgiving with our passions and concerns, we can make meaningful contributions. My personal commitment to the Annual Catholic Appeal is driven by a deep appreciation for its impact on our local Church's mission, including support for parishes, seminaries, schools, and outreach programs. Having benefitted from the Church's generosity myself, I understand firsthand how such support can change lives. This experience fuels my passion for giving, making my contributions not just acts of charity, but integral parts of my spiritual practice.

Almsgiving, therefore, is more than a duty; it is an opportunity to draw closer to Christ, who showed a special preference for the poor. It is a witness to fraternal charity and a work of justice pleasing to God, as highlighted in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (no. 2462). Let us embrace almsgiving with renewed vigor, allowing it to transform us and bring us closer to the perfection to which we are called.

As we continue our Lenten journey, let us seek to disrupt our routines, inspired by the Gospel's call to authentic worship and devotion. May our practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving help us to follow more closely in the footsteps of Christ, who has shown us the path to true perfection.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Msgr. Cuong M. Pham



Queridos hermanos en Cristo,

Al llegar a la mitad de la Cuaresma en esta tercera semana, nos damos cuenta de que nuestro camino de penitencia y reflexión aún no ha terminado. La Cuaresma nos reta a romper con nuestras rutinas espirituales habituales, instándonos a abrazar el cambio y buscar una renovación que nos impulse hacia la meta última de alcanzar la perfección, tal como nuestro Padre celestial nos llama a ser, según nos enseñó Jesús en el Sermón del Monte (Mateo 5:48).

En esta temporada de transformación, la Iglesia nos orienta sabiamente hacia la oración, el ayuno y la limosna, tres pilares fundamentales para nuestra búsqueda de la perfección espiritual. Sin embargo, aunque la oración y el ayuno se adoptan con mucho ánimo, la limosna a menudo queda en el camino, menos practicada y apreciada. Esta omisión no se debe a la falta de necesidad o de oportunidades, sino quizás a un desconocimiento de su verdadero valor y la alegría que puede traer.

Dar limosna es, en esencia, actuar para ayudar a los necesitados, ya sea con dinero, alimentos u otros bienes. Esta práctica es un ejercicio profundo de desprendimiento que nos recuerda que la riqueza material no es nuestro fin último. Más allá de una disciplina personal, la limosna tiene un carácter social inherente, resaltando la naturaleza relacional de nuestra fe. Es una manifestación de amor, un signo visible de nuestro compromiso con el bienestar ajeno, reflejando el amor altruista de Dios. Así, vivimos el mandato de que lo que hacemos por los más pequeños entre nosotros, lo hacemos por Cristo mismo (Mt 25:40).

La lectura del Evangelio para el Tercer Domingo de Cuaresma, nos muestra a Jesús purificando el Templo, un acto de celo por la casa de Su Padre (Juan 2:13-25). Las acciones de Jesús interrumpen la rutina, desafiando el statu quo y llamando a un retorno a la verdadera adoración y devoción. Este pasaje nos invita a reflexionar sobre nuestras propias prácticas de fe, incluida la limosna, como expresiones de nuestro celo por la casa de Dios. Así como Jesús buscó purificar el templo, estamos llamados a purificar nuestras intenciones y acciones, convirtiéndolas en verdaderas ofrendas a Dios.

Decidir a quién apoyar con nuestras limosnas puede parecer una tarea abrumadora ante la gran cantidad de causas dignas. Sin embargo, es en la toma de estas decisiones donde podemos encontrar una conexión más profunda con nuestra fe y con el mundo que nos rodea. Mi compromiso personal con la Campaña Católica Anual se nutre de un profundo aprecio por su impacto en la misión de nuestra Iglesia local, apoyando a parroquias, seminarios, escuelas y programas de alcance. Beneficiado por la generosidad de la Iglesia en el pasado, comprendo de primera mano cómo este apoyo puede transformar vidas. Esta experiencia alimenta mi pasión por dar, convirtiendo mis contribuciones en partes integrales de mi práctica espiritual.

Por lo tanto, la limosna es mucho más que una obligación; es una oportunidad para acercarnos más a Cristo, quien mostró una preferencia especial por los pobres. Es un testimonio de caridad fraterna y una obra de justicia agradable a Dios, como se destaca en el *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica* (n.º 2462). Acojamos la limosna con nuevo entusiasmo, permitiendo que nos transforme y nos acerque a la perfección a la que estamos llamados.

Continuando nuestro viaje cuaresmal, busquemos interrumpir nuestras rutinas, inspirados por el llamado del Evangelio a una adoración y devoción auténticas. Que nuestras prácticas de oración, ayuno y limosna nos ayuden a seguir más de cerca los pasos de Cristo, quien nos ha mostrado el camino hacia la verdadera perfección.

Con cariño y devoción en Cristo,

Mons. Cuong M. Pham

THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

Sunday, March 3

9:00am—1:00pm	Rosary Society	Lourdes A/B
10:00am—1:00pm	Czech Community	Guadalupe B
10:00am—12:00pm	Spanish OCIA	Fatima
10:30am—12:30pm	Cursillo	Guadalupe A
12:30pm—4:00pm	Venta de Comida	Guadalupe A

Tuesday, March 5

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, March 6

4:00pm—7:30pm	Religious Education	All Rooms
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Thursday, March 7

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, March 8

11:00am—12:30pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	Lourdes A/B
6:30pm—9:00pm	Practica de Instrumentos	Upper Room
6:30pm—9:00pm	Youth Night	Guadalupe A
7:00pm—9:00pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	Lourdes A
7:00pm—9:00pm	English OCIA	Fatima
8:30pm—10:00pm	Jornada Vigil	Guadalupe B

Saturday, March 9

All Day	CYO	Gym
9:00am—12:30pm	AA Meeting	Guadalupe A/B
10:00am—1:00pm	Saturday Lessons in Faith	Lourdes A/B
10:00am—12:00pm	Spanish Children's Choir	Upper Room
3:00pm—5:00pm	Confirmation Session 4	Guadalupe A/B
5:00pm—7:00pm	Bilingual Choir Practice	Nazareth
5:00pm—7:00pm	Ministerio de Consolacion	Lourdes A/B
6:30pm—8:00pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	Guadalupe A/B

ROSARY SOCIETY

The next Rosary Society meeting will be held March 3rd, 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!

Fr. Chris Bethge, Vocation Director, is 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 him at 718-827-2454 or email cbethge@cathedralprep.org

Follow us on Social Media:
@OLMCAstoria



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 **Minda Balhaman, Ralph Vitacco, Leonida Soresca, Eugenio Acevedo, Wasył Bodnar, Lillie Bonanno, Jalil Illera, Dilara Ayse Osman, Setiminio Ravik, Bronko Kos, Alvin Trusty, John Agius, Manuele Vdokakes, Vincent Arnone, Sadie Arnone, George Vdokakes, Grace Vdokakes, Solita Escubio Ruendo.**



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
- * Call the parish office at 718.278.1834
- * Scan the QR code
- * Text "Enroll" to 929.254.3850



ST. JOSEPH FEAST DAY



The Italian Community of Our Lady of Mount Carmel of Astoria, and The St. Joseph Congregation invites everyone to come and celebrate a Mass in Honor of Saint Joseph on Tuesday March 19, 2024 at 10 am The Mass will be celebrated in Italian. The distribution of bread will be after the Mass.

SMART WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR PARISH

Did you know that there are ways to support our beloved parish and the mission of the Church that can also provide you with tax benefits...and potentially even a source of income? If you have an asset such as appreciated stocks, a retirement plan, art, real estate or other assets, a planned gift could be a smarter way to give than cash alone. With a planned gift, like those mentioned above, you can sustain our beloved parish while also making smart financial decisions to benefit your family. To learn more please contact Neida Martinez at our parish office 718-278-1834 or call the Catholic Foundation at 718-965-7375.

FORMAS INTELIGENTES DE APOYAR NUESTRA QUERIDA PARROQUIA

¿Sabías que existen formas de apoyar a nuestra querida parroquia y la misión de la Iglesia que también pueden ofrecerte beneficios fiscales... y potencialmente incluso una fuente de ingresos? Si tienes un activo como acciones apreciadas, un plan de jubilación, arte, bienes raíces u otros activos, un regalo planificado podría ser una manera más inteligente de dar que solo efectivo. Con un regalo planificado, como los mencionados anteriormente, puedes sostener a nuestra querida parroquia al mismo tiempo que tomas decisiones financieras inteligentes para beneficiar a tu familia. Para obtener más información, por favor contacta a Neida Martínez en nuestra oficina parroquial al 718-278-1834 o llama a la Fundación Católica al 718-965-7375.



Welcome

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



You are cordially invited to participate in our parish's communal celebration of the Stations of the Cross/Via Crucis. **This traditional devotion is held every Friday during Lent right after the 12 Noon Mass in the chapel.** Booklets will be provided for all participants. Come to retrace the steps of Jesus, to know the depth of His Love for you!

INFANT BAPTISM/ BAUTISMOS

Preparation Meeting	Baptism Ceremony
Tuesday—6:00pm—Institute	12:00pm— Upper Church
March 19, 2024	March 23, 2024
April 23, 2024	April 27, 2024
May 21, 2024	May 25, 2024
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
Martes—6:00pm—Instituto	12:00pm—Iglesia de Arriba
5 de Marzo	9 de Marzo
9 de Abril	13 de Abril
NO HABRA BAUTISMOS EL MES DE MAYO	
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

DIGGING DEEPER INTO SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading The "10 Commandments" given to Moses at Mount Sinai reveal God's moral and ethical expectations for Israel. Which of these Commandments do you personally find most challenging to follow?

Second Reading Early in his letter to the Corinthians, Paul speaks of his firm conviction in the power and wisdom of his proclamation, "Christ crucified." What are you confident about in your faith life?

Gospel Reading Jesus' deep passion ("zeal") for the Jerusalem Temple led to his strong (and violent) reaction to what he witnessed in the Temple. What is something you feel passionate about as it relates to your faith?

LENTEN REGULATIONS

The penitential and grace-filled Lenten Season begins with Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024. It is a time of hope-filled renewal as the Church journeys towards Easter. During Lent, the Church calls us to a deeper spirit of penance, fasting, almsgiving and prayer, “which express conversion in relation to oneself, to God, and to others” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, nos. 1434 and 1969*). To foster this spirit, the Church reminds us of the following obligations:

Abstinence: Healthy Catholics age 14 and older are required to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, every Friday of Lent and Good Friday.

Fasting: Healthy adult Catholics age 18-59 inclusive are bound to fast, limiting food to one full meal with minimal food at the other two mealtimes and nothing in between.

Almsgiving: The act of giving to the poor, in the most ancient tradition of the Church, is an expression of penance, a witness of fraternal charity, and an expression of Lenten conversion. Catholics are encouraged to support generously the charitable works of the whole Church through regular stewardship to their parish, support of charities, and their generous response to the diocesan Annual Catholic Appeal.

Those not bound by these regulations, such as young and elderly persons or those who are sick, are encouraged to practice other forms of personal penance and sacrifice.

REGLAMENTOS DE CUARESMA

La temporada de Cuaresma penitencial y llena de gracia comienza con el Miércoles de Ceniza, 14 de febrero de 2024. Es un tiempo de renovación llena de esperanza a medida que la Iglesia camina hacia la Pascua. Durante la Cuaresma, la Iglesia nos llama a un espíritu más profundo de penitencia, ayuno, limosna y oración, “que expresan la conversión en relación con uno mismo, con Dios y con los demás” (*Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, nos. 1434 y 1969*). Para fomentar este espíritu, la Iglesia nos recuerda las siguientes obligaciones:

Abstinencia: Todos los fieles que han cumplido 14 años de edad deben abstenerse de comer carne el Miércoles de Ceniza y todos los viernes de Cuaresma.

Ayuno: Todos los fieles entre las edades de 18 y 59 inclusive están obligados a ayunar el Miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo. El ayuno significa limitarse a una comida completa y evitar los alimentos entre comidas. El sustento ligero se puede tomar en otras dos ocasiones durante el día. El café, el té y el zumo están permitidos en cualquier momento.

La limosna: El acto de dar a los pobres, en la más antigua tradición de la Iglesia, es expresión de penitencia, testimonio de caridad fraterna y expresión de conversión cuaresmal. Los católicos animan a apoyar generosamente las obras caritativas de toda la Iglesia a través de la administración regular de su parroquia, el apoyo a las organizaciones benéficas y su generosa respuesta a la Campaña Católica Anual.

A los que no están sujetos a estas normas, como los jóvenes y las personas o los enfermos, se les anima a practicar otras formas de penitencia y sacrificio personal.

JOURNEYING HOME TOGETHER

Some activities simply become more enriching and enjoyable when shared with others. Be it watching a movie, dining out, or participating in a community Mass, these experiences often gain an added layer of joy and fulfillment in the company of others. The Lenten Season embodies a similar spirit of communal engagement. During Lent, the entire Church collectively embarks on a reflective journey, examining the presence and impact of sin both in our personal lives and in the wider world.

At the onset of Lent, we mark each other's foreheads with ashes, a symbolic act that serves as a poignant reminder of Jesus' call for us to renounce sin and worldly vanities. These forty days are a time of intentional effort and sacrifice, where we choose to eat less and redirect our resources towards assisting those in need. It's a period where we consciously abstain from harmful habits like gossip, replacing them with positive thoughts and attitudes.

Together, as a community, we strive to engage more deeply with God's word, taking deliberate steps to reorient our lives. This reorganization aims to reestablish our relationship with God and His Church as our foremost priority. Lent provides an opportune moment to partake in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a time for spiritual renewal and returning to our faith's core values.

The journey towards spiritual homecoming feels significantly more profound and meaningful when we undertake it as a community. Walking this path with others not only strengthens our individual faith but also reinforces the bonds of our shared belief and fellowship.



ESTÁN INVITADOS A UN RETIRO CUARESIMAL ARREPENTIMIENTO, PERDÓN Y SANACIÓN

Dia 23 de Marzo 2024

HORA JUVENIL

1:00PM-2:00PM

AMOR DE DIOS

*NTRA. SRA. DEL
MONTE CARMELO
2325 NEWTON AVE
ASTORIA, QUEENS
9:00 AM @ 5:00 PM*

Presentado por Grupo RCC

Habrá comida

Inf. 347.484.7976 - 347.969.7723



Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo
23-25 Newtown Avenue
Astoria, NY 11102

CORONILLA CANTADA

6:30pm en la
Iglesia de Arriba

Sabados en 2024:

~~27 de enero~~
~~10 de febrero~~
23 de marzo

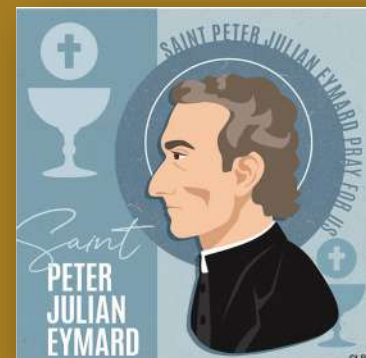
Celebracion de la Divina
Misericordia sera el
Domingo 7 de Abril;
a las 12:30pm seguido
con la fiesta en el gimnasio.

25 de mayo
29 de junio
20 de julio
31 de agosto
28 de september
26 de octubre
30 de noviembre



Jesus, en Ti confio!

SAINT OF THE WEEK



St. Peter Julian Eymard, known as "Apostle of the Eucharist," founded the Society of the Blessed Sacrament and the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament. He promoted perpetual adoration, inspired those estranged from the Church to return, and worked to educate all about Christ.

Prayer of Surrender

Dear Lord, Help me to place You in the center of my plans for the future, my dreams for my life, my goals for the time ahead. Be my God and my guide. Amen.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

I am the Lord your God... You shall not have other gods beside me. -Ex 20:2-3 One of the greatest golfers of all time if not the greatest - was Jack Nicklaus. Which is why it is baffling that at the beginning of each season he would return to his childhood coach and re-learn how to grip the golf club. It's like Shakespeare re-learning the alphabet and grammar. Why would he do that? Because Jack knew that the fundamentals are always relevant. Perfecting and obsessing over his grip allowed him to do everything else in the game well. In sports and life, the best ones love the basics. Similarly, as we begin Lent, we re-learn the spiritual basics in the Ten Commandments. Consider the first, to "have no other gods besides me." This is our "grip." Is our connection to God one of absolute fidelity and exclusive worship? Am I willing to let go of my precious idols, the things I cling to instead of God? Once we say "yes" to this fundamental question of our spiritual "grip, then we are

ready to properly engage with everything else in life. Watch how beautifully the game of life unfolds in the next nine commandments: how we speak to God and others, how we organize our week, how we relate to our family and the wider community, how we live our sexuality, and how we order all the other desires of the human heart. Don't rush to these later Commandments too soon! Everything in life is built on the first Commandment. The more we focus on worshiping God alone, the better we navigate life with effectiveness, and love.

Lenten challenge: This week, identify what you can do to better worship God alone. If you're not sure, scan the last nine commandments to identify what you are most likely to worship instead of God. Power, pleasure, control of your time, possessions, family, health, reputation, money? Commit to concrete action to help you let go of this "idol" to better hold on to God alone in faithful worship. Remember: the best love the basics. *Father John Muir*

THE MERCIFUL ANGER OF JESUS

Watch your fellow churchgoers today as the priest reads the story of Jesus raising hell in the temple square. Dollars to donuts, they'll be squirming. We have become very uncomfortable with Angry Jesus. He makes us cringe in the same way that the Old Testament God does when He calls Himself "Jealous" and talks about punishment. If it were present in a human relationship, it would be toxic and abusive, because in humanity, fierceness and love rarely coexist in a healthy way. But what a tragedy it would be for us to mistake our relationship with God for our relationship with our spouse, best friend, or father. Because we cannot see clearly, we would mistake His zeal for anger and His law for diktat. The strong and sure movement of a wave against a rocky cliff will, over time, erode its surface, just as an overabundance of raindrops

will flood a city. We do not call the water callous and cruel. We still luxuriate in its coolness and refreshment. Its destructive powers don't negate the life-giving properties of water. We do not demand that water apologize to us for being strong. Fierce, uncompromising but also, soft and merciful. How can God and God's law be both, at the same time? How can Christ cast a whip at someone's foot, overturn a table and scatter coins? How can the law of God be perfect, as the Psalm says, and refresh the soul - while demanding so much of it? All I can say is, thank God for Angry Jesus. We need his fierceness and thank God it does not wane because it confuses us. Thank God his mercy does not decrease because we doubt it. "For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength." - 1 Corinthians 1:25

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

IS IT EVER OK TO LEAVE MASS BEFORE IT ENDS?

This is an interesting question because beneath the surface there seems to be. an assumption that if it's okay, then why do we have to stay after we receive communion? The short answer is "no," but we definitely want to go a bit deeper as we consider why. First, when we think about questions like this, we must consider this in adult terms. If there is something gravely important that we need to do, then we must attend to that.

However, if it is a matter of convenience or preference, then we really have to stop and think again. First, while we always want to recognize the importance of sacramental communion in the Mass, we also need to understand how important the time of thanksgiving and prayer after communion is. This is summarized in the Prayer After Communion offered by the celebrant and then we are also

commissioned to "Go forth" during the Dismissal of the Mass, reminding us that we have been entrusted with a gift the Word of God and the Presence of Christ in the sacrament - and that we are to share that gift with others. If we simply leave after we receive communion, we risk two things.

First, there is the possibility that we will turn our reception of communion into a purely personal, individual experience that is separated from our common experience of worship and communion in the fullest sense and, second, we lose an opportunity for gratitude and serious reflection if we simply leave after communion. This time of thanksgiving, reflection, and, ultimately, missioning, are important and, in the end, an essential part of the celebration of the Mass.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

Memorial Palm Crosses



Remember those who have passed, and/or honor your loved ones by memorializing a Palm Cross which will adorn the parish property beginning on Palm Sunday.

Recuerde a los que han fallecido y/o honre a sus seres queridos conmemorando una Cruz de Palma que adornará la propiedad parroquial a partir del Domingo de Ramos.

Please complete the following:

How many crosses would you like to memorialize? (\$35 each)
(Memorial labels will include the name of the Individuals or Couples for each cross.)

Please Circle One

Cross #1 (In Memory of/ In Honor of): _____

Cross #2 (In Memory of/ In Honor of): _____

Cross #3 (In Memory of/ In Honor of): _____

For additional crosses, please attach a separate sheet of paper to this form.

Deadline: Monday, March 18, 2024

Name/ Nombre: _____

Phone: _____

Number of Crosses: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

We accept Cash, Checks, or Money Orders.

Checks/Money Orders made out to Our Lady of Mount Carmel