



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

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

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

“It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.” - Jn 15:16-17

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH MANAGER

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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, MAY 4

8:00am Jose Maria Serrano Arboleda
5:00pm Frank Katende, Souls in Purgatory

SUNDAY, MAY 5 (*Sixth Sunday of Easter*)

8:00am The Living & Deceased Members of
Our Parish's Rosary Society
9:00am San Giuseppe Lavoratore
9:30am Brendaliz Leon (*Living— 19th Birthday*)
11:00am Antonia Nacinovich (*Memorial*)
12:30pm Alejandrina Huaman, Victor Vazquez,
Marina Antonia Estevez Cepeda, Pedro Loor,
Maria Isabel Ocampo (*Vive*), Agustina Rojas,
Dionisia Belen Ocampo, Karina Lariño,
Miguel Vivar
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, MAY 6

8:00am Mary DePinto
12:00pm Maria & Carmelo Cini

TUESDAY, MAY 7

8:00am Deceased Members of the
Valentino & Castroverde Families
12:00pm The Living & Deceased Members of the
Legion of Mary

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

8:00am Calogera & Luigi Carlino and the Deceased
Members of the Macaluso Family
12:00pm Dominique Badio (*Living*)

THURSDAY, MAY 9 (*Ascension of the Lord*)

8:00am Franco Comunale (*Living*)
12:00pm Leonard Burton
7:30pm Saul Solomon Mendoza

FRIDAY, MAY 10 (*Saints John of Avila & Damien de Vuester*)

8:00am The Members of the Mother's Prayer Group
and their Families
12:00pm Mary Rossi

SATURDAY, MAY 11

8:00am Julia Jarrick Immordino
5:00pm Joseph Mascia, Rose Tavano,
Leonidas G. Sorosca, Amelia Selma Pelecia,
Elissa Stanblakos (*Living*), *Jose Paul Loor Loor*

SUNDAY, MAY 12 (*Seventh Sunday of Easter*)

8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am *Mothers in Our Parish Family*
9:00am Per Tutte Le Mamme
12:30pm Por Las Madres en Nuestra Familia Parroquial
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

REMEMBERING OUR BELOVED DECEASED IN THE PURGATORIAL SOCIETY

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 **Teresa Valera, Carlos Charini, Maria Severina Moloche, Enrique Zavala, Carlos Oswaldo Zavala Moloche, Susana Charini de Zavala, Nelly Zavala de Obando, Susanita & Luchito Zavala Charini, Julio Obando Alva, Eduardo Toledo Anicama, Teresa Stuard de Zavala, Enrique Araki, Guillermo Ames, Cesar Augusto Rodriguez Valeria, Cristina Zavala Vola de Loayza, Hector Loayza, Esperanza de Zavala, Carlos Enrique, Hernan, Lucho & Jose Zavala, Francisco Gonzalez, Ramon Feliz Nunez, Maxino Vega, Lucha Rodriguez de Vega, Priest Missionaries & Religious, Gillermo Rivarola, Manuel Bazul Torero, Azpauza Family.**

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 (Bilingual)
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—8:00pm

2024 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

As of April 29, 2024, we have 80 donors who have pledged \$38,119 towards our parish goal of \$67,815. We have so far collected \$26,529. 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. Please remember to use our parish **code #4167** in support of the 2024 ACA. To donate, visit www.AnnualCatholicAppeal.org or text **DONATE** to **917.336.1255**.

If you have not received your donation card or have had a difficult time contacting the Annual Catholic Appeal website or office, please call the parish office and we will assist you with any issues you have.



Follow us on Social Media:
@OLMCAstoria



MASS ATTENDANCE RECORD

Weekend of April 20/21	Number of Attendees
Saturday English Vigil 5:00pm	119
Sunday English 8:00am	103
9:00am Italian	30
9:30am Bilingual	164
10:00am Czech	20
English 11:00am	283
12:30pm Spanish	321
3:00pm Vietnamese	59

Welcome



WEEKLY OFFERINGS

*The Sanctuary Lamp is being offered for **Giuseppa Barretta & Sabbia Carullo**, by **Ida Barretta***

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

May 5, 2024: There will be a second collection after communion for our parish maintenance. Your generosity enables us to keep and maintain our parish spaces in good condition for your use.

May 19, 2024: There will be a second collection after communion in support of Catholic Communications, which connects Catholics with Christ in the United States and developing countries, using internet, television, radio & print media. Half of the money collected stays in our diocese to fund local communication efforts.

WEEKLY MASS OFFERINGS

REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS

Last Sunday: \$5,729 Same Week Last Year: \$5,675

FAITH DIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS

April 2023: \$4,606 April 2024: \$4,870



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we enter into the month of May, our hearts are drawn to the tender figure of Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary. May is a time when we express our deep love and devotion for the Mother of God, honoring her as not only the mother of Jesus but also as our spiritual mother, who watches over us with a mother's care from her place as Queen of Heaven.

In the life of Mary, we find the epitome of discipleship and love. She is the perfect model for all who seek to follow her Son, Jesus Christ. Mary's humility and complete surrender to the Divine Will are exemplified by her resounding "Yes" to God's plan. She teaches us that true greatness lies in selfless service and obedience, echoing the very essence of Jesus's commandment in this Sunday's gospel: *"Love one another as I have loved you"* (Jn 15:9-17).

Mary's life was centered on Christ, her Son. She willingly faded into the background, never seeking attention for herself but always pointing to Jesus. In this, she teaches us the importance of humility and putting God first in our lives. Mary invites us to imitate her example, to make room for Jesus in our hearts and lives, just as she made room for Him in her womb and in her life.

During this month of May, let us heed the call of our Holy Father and rekindle our devotion to Mary through the prayer of the Rosary. As Pope Francis reminds us, simplicity is key in our prayer life, whether we pray individually or as a community (*Holy Father's Letter for the Month of May 2020*). Let us unite our hearts in spiritual communion, seeking Mary's intercession and guidance as we journey closer to her Son, Jesus Christ.

In our parish, dedicated to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Marian devotion has always been the vibrant heartbeat of our spiritual community. From the Legion of Mary to the Rosary Society, from the Virgin of Guadalupe Prayer Group to the weekly gatherings for the Rosary, our community remains steadfast in its love for the Mother of God. The fervor displayed through the adornment of shrines and the glowing votive candles bears eloquent testimony to our unwavering trust in Mary's maternal solicitude.

As we honor Mary during this sacred month, let us not forget to extend our prayers to all mothers, both living and deceased, as we celebrate Mother's Day. Let us also remember our children who will receive the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation, invoking Mary's intercession for their spiritual journey.

In closing, let us immerse ourselves in the commandment of love that Jesus entrusted to us. Let us emulate Mary's humility and obedience, thus embodying the profound truth of loving one another as Christ has loved us. May our devotion to Mary ignite within us a deeper love for her Son and inspire us to manifest that love through tangible acts of kindness and service towards our fellow travelers on this earthly pilgrimage.

With assurances of my prayers and spiritual closeness, I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Msgr. Cuong M. Pham



Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Al entrar en el mes de mayo, nuestros corazones se dirigen hacia la tierna figura de Nuestra Señora, la Santísima Virgen María. Mayo es un momento en el que expresamos nuestro profundo amor y devoción por la Madre de Dios, honrándola no solo como la madre de Jesús, sino también como nuestra madre espiritual, quien nos cuida con el amor de una madre desde su lugar como Reina del Cielo.

En la vida de María, encontramos el epítome del discipulado y el amor. Ella es el modelo perfecto para todos los que buscan seguir a su Hijo, Jesucristo. La humildad de María y su completa entrega a la Voluntad Divina se ejemplifican en su resonante "Sí" al plan de Dios. Ella nos enseña que la verdadera grandeza reside en el servicio desinteresado y la obediencia, haciendo eco de la esencia misma del mandamiento de Jesús en el evangelio de este domingo: *"Ámense los unos a los otros como yo los he amado"* (Jn 15:9-17).

La vida de María estaba centrada en Cristo, su Hijo. Ella se desvaneció voluntariamente en segundo plano, nunca buscando atención para sí misma, sino siempre señalando hacia Jesús. En esto, ella nos enseña la importancia de la humildad y de poner a Dios primero en nuestras vidas. María nos invita a imitar su ejemplo, a hacer espacio para Jesús en nuestros corazones y vidas, así como ella hizo espacio para Él en su vientre y en su vida.

Durante este mes de mayo, escuchemos el llamado de nuestro Santo Padre y avivemos nuestra devoción a María a través de la oración del Rosario. Como nos recuerda el Papa Francisco, la simplicidad es clave en nuestra vida de oración, ya sea que oremos individualmente o como comunidad (*Carta del Santo Padre para el Mes de Mayo de 2020*). Unamos nuestros corazones en comunión espiritual, buscando la intercesión y guía de María mientras nos acercamos a su Hijo, Jesucristo.

En nuestra parroquia, dedicada a Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo, la devoción mariana siempre ha sido el vibrante latido de nuestra comunidad espiritual. Desde la Legión de María hasta la Sociedad del Rosario, desde el Comité de Guadalupe hasta los encuentros semanales para el Rosario, nuestra comunidad permanece firme en su amor por la Madre de Dios. El fervor mostrado a través del adorno de los santuarios y de las luminosas velas votivas es un testimonio elocuente de nuestra confianza inquebrantable en la solicitud maternal de María.

Mientras honramos a María durante este mes sagrado, no olvidemos extender nuestras oraciones a todas las madres, tanto vivas como difuntas, mientras celebramos el Día de la Madre. Recordemos también a nuestros hijos que recibirán los sacramentos de la Santa Comunión y la Confirmación, invocando la intercesión de María en su camino espiritual.

Para concluir, sumergámonos en el mandamiento de amor que Jesús nos confió. Imitemos la humildad y obediencia de María, encarnando así la profunda verdad de amarnos los unos a los otros como Cristo nos ha amado. Que nuestra devoción a María encienda en nosotros un amor más profundo por su Hijo e inspiremos a manifestar ese amor a través de actos tangibles de bondad y servicio hacia nuestros compañeros de viaje en esta peregrinación terrenal.

Con la seguridad de mis oraciones y cercanía espiritual, me quedo

Fielmente suyo en Cristo,

Monseñor Cuong M. Pham

THIS WEEK AT OUR PARISH

THE MOUNT CARMEL CHOIR & STRING TRIO

The choir will be singing at the 5:00 P.M. mass on Saturday, May 4th. On Sunday, May 19th, the string trio will perform with the choir for the 11:00 A.M. Mass for Pentecost.

INFANT BAPTISM/ BAUTISMOS

Preparation Meeting	Baptism Ceremony
Tuesday—6:00pm—Institute	12:00pm— Upper Church
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
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

CHANGE OF OFFICE HOURS

The office hours on Saturdays will be extended to 8:00pm to better serve our community. We hope that by doing this, it will help facilitate to lend keys and attend those who come to the office during the weekend.



DIGGING DEEPER INTO SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading: The Jewish believers who accompanied Peter to the house of Cornelius were "astonished" that Gentiles who had faith in Jesus also received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Have you ever been surprised by what God has done in your life?

Second Reading: John teaches us that the essence of God is love and we are called to love one another. Who might you work on loving this week?

Gospel: Jesus taught his disciples that loving him and loving each other brings "complete joy" What brings you joy in your life?

Sunday, May 5

9:00am—1:00pm	Rosary Society	Lourdes A/B
10:00am—1:00pm	Czech Community	Guadalupe B
10:00am—11:00am	Grupo de Amistad	Upper Room
10:00am—12:30pm	Cursillo	Gym
12:30pm—3:00pm	Matrimonios Venta	Gym

Monday, May 6

7:00am—5:00pm	TYWLS	Gym
5:00pm—9:00pm	CYO	Gym

Tuesday, May 7

7:00am—4:00pm	TYWLS	Gym
3:30pm—6:00pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	Fatima
5:00pm—9:00pm	CYO	Gym
5:30pm—7:00pm	Mariachi School	Balcony

6:00pm—9:00pm	Marriage Encounter	Guadalupe+ Fatima
7:00pm—9:00pm	Coro #1	Nazareth

Wednesday, May 8

7:00am—4:00pm	TYLWS	Gym
4:00pm—7:30pm	Religious Education	All Rooms
7:30pm—9:00pm	CYO	Gym
8:00pm—10:00pm	Knights of Columbus	Guadalupe A

Thursday, May 9

7:00am—5:00pm	TYWLS	Gym
10:00am—11:30am	Legion of Mary	Guadalupe A/B
6:00pm—7:30pm	Religious Education	All Rooms
7:30pm—9:00pm	CYO	Gym
7:30pm—8:30pm	Grupo de Amistad	Lourdes A/B

Friday, May 10

7:00pm—4:00pm	TYWLS	Gym
5:00pm—11:00pm	CYO	Gym
6:30pm—9:00pm	Practica de Instrumentos	Upper Room
6:30pm—9:00pm	Youth Group	Guadalupe A/B

Saturday, May 11

All Day	CYO	Gym
9:00am—12:30pm	AA Meeting	Guadalupe A/B
10:00am—12:00pm	Spanish Children's Choir	Upper Room
2:00pm—6:00pm	Family Gathering	Guadalupe A/B
5:00pm—7:00pm	Bilingual Choir Practice	Nazareth
5:00pm—7:00pm	Ministerio de Consolacion	Lourdes A/B
6:00pm—7:30pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	Fatima

Sunday, May 12

8:00am—11:30am	Italian Community	Lourdes A/B
10:00am—1:00pm	Czech Community	Lourdes A/B
10:00am—11:00am	Grupo de Amistad	Upper Room
10:30am—12:30pm	Cursillo	Guadalupe A/B
12:30pm—3:00pm	Matrimonios Venta	Guadalupe A/B

ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS

The next Rosary Society meeting will be held May 5th, starting at 10:00am in the Lourdes Room. All ladies over 15 years old are welcomed. Refreshments will be served. Bring a friend!

ROSARY SOCIETY SUMMER FUNDRAISER LUNCHEON

Saturday, June 22, 2024

12:00PM-3:00PM in the Institute

Hot Buffet Lunch* including wine and soda will be served
50/50 Raffle

Reserve your seat along with your payment of \$50 in either cash or check made out to Our Lady of Mount Carmel at the parish office. For more information, call the parish office or email Neida Martinez at media@mountcarmelastoria.org.

*Food will be catered by Cronin & Phelan.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Once a man came to the Vatican and asked to see Pope John Paul II, claiming that they had been friends in Poland. When told of the man, the Pope said, "He is mistaken about our friendship. I don't recall ever having suffered with him." As it turned out, the man had never known the Pope. Now, I'm not sure if the story is totally factual. But doesn't the juxtaposition of suffering with friendship sound exactly like JP II? He understood that the deepest and most lasting friendships are forged in the fires of shared suffering. No suffering, no friendship. Amazing. This week we hear Jesus say to the apostles and to us, "You are my friends if you do what I command you" (John 15:14). In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God entered the world of human suffering and transformed it into an avenue of friendship with Himself. Following His command to love, to lay down our lives for others will always entail suffering. But this suffering only deepens our friendship with Him. His suffering is ours, ours is His. We have become friends of God. This week, how might you share your suffering with the Risen Jesus? How might he be sharing his suffering with you, in the lives of those around you? Be attentive to that, and you'll find that you are indeed a friend of God, because you've suffered together a great deal.

Father John Muir

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.

SAINT OF THE WEEK

St. Cyril of Jerusalem was a bishop in the fourth century. His teachings on the Eucharist, among other topics, secured his place as a Doctor of the Church. Though his ministry was marked by estrangement, exile, and ultimately, reconciliation, he never lost his faith!

Prayer of Love

God the Father, You created me in love. Jesus, your love for me compelled you to come to earth to die for me. Holy Spirit, love between God and Jesus, now you surround me with the love of the Father and the Son. Help me to live out this reality, today and always. Amen.

REGISTER FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Registrations for our Religious Education Program is opened from May 1st through the end of August **ONLY**. For new registrations, please pick up an application at the parish office, fill it out with clear letters, & please provide the certificates of all the sacraments your child has already made along with the birth certificate and pay the required fee. If your child was in our religious education program this year, please ask for the re-registration form, update the form as needed and pay the required fee.

	May Prices	June, July, August Prices
For 1 Child	\$65.00	\$75.00
For 2 Children	\$100.00	\$120.00
For 3 or more children (Siblings)	\$140.00	\$160.00

INSCRÍBANSE PARA LA EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

Las inscripciones para el programa de catecismo esta abierto desde el 1 de **Mayo, Junio, Julio y Agosto SOLAMENTE**. Para una nueva registraci3n, por favor recoja una aplicaci3n en la oficina parroquial y llene el cuestionario con letra clara y adem3s debe de traer los certificados de los sacramentos ya recibidos y haga el pago requerido. Si su ni1o/a ya estuvo en nuestro programa este a1o, por favor vaya a la oficina y pida el formulario de re-inscripci3n y haga el pago requerido. La cuota de inscripci3n es la siguiente:

	Mayo	Junio, Julio y Agosto
1 ni1o (a)	\$65.00	\$75.00
2 ni1os (as)	\$100.00	\$120.00
3 ni1os(as) o m3s (hermanos)	\$140.00	\$160.00

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, May 3rd, 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.

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

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. This week please pray for **Roseann Rodeschini, Elaine Gannon and Frances Camisa, Elma Chang-Protatio, Eileen Leggio, Maria Colombo Bianco.**

WEEKLY CHURCH REMINDERS

- To avoid fire hazards, please keep the aisles free from carriages, strollers, carts, and similar items. Our ushers are here to help guide you to designated storage areas for these items during Mass.
- We also requests that parishioners, using contribution envelopes, clearly write the donation amount on the envelopes. This greatly assists our collection counters and streamlines the process for them.

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.



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

CORONILLA CANTADA

6:30pm en la Iglesia de Arriba

Sabados en 2024:

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

Jesus, en Ti confio!

Comuniquese con la oficina parroquial si necesita alguna informacion adicional.

PROXIMAS VENTAS DE COMIDA

26 de Mayo C. Guadalupano Guadalupe A/B
2 de Junio Matri/ Posadas Guadalupe A/B
16 de Junio San Diego Alcalá Guadalupe A/B
30 de Junio C. Guadalupano Guadalupe A/B

Gracias por su apoyo!

REGISTRACION PARROQUIAL

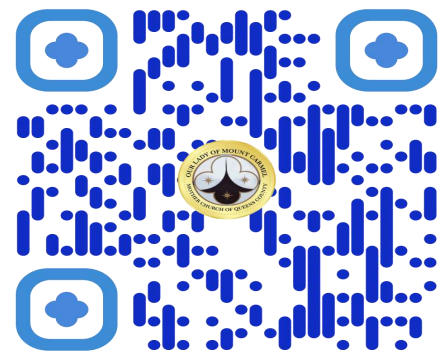
Registrarse permite que nuestra parroquia les pueda servir sus necesidades espirituales. Por favor devuelva este formulario en la colecta o déjelo en la oficina parroquial. Su participación fortalecerá su fe y su sentido de pertenencia en la familia de Dios.

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

POR FAVOR MARCAR:

- Nueva Registración Cambio de dirección
 Prefiero Sobres Donaciones en línea

NEW TO THE PARISH?



VOCATION STATION

When Pope Francis was a young seminarian in his twenties, he had to think about celibacy very carefully. A few years ago, when he was a cardinal, he recalled in an interview:

"I was dazzled by a girl I met at an uncle's wedding... I was surprised by her beauty, her intellectual brilliance...and, well, I was bowled over for quite a while. I kept thinking and thinking about her. When I returned to the seminary after the wedding, I could not pray for over a week because when I tried to do so, the girl appeared in my head. I had to rethink what I was doing."

Let's state the obvious: young men and women are strongly attracted to one another. And this attraction becomes even stronger when you meet someone who shares your ideals and interests.

If you are a faithful Catholic, the attraction deepens even further when you meet another Catholic who is serious about her faith.

This is why, for example, a seminarian can suddenly find himself "a person of interest" in a way that he did not experience before seminary. In situations where a seminarian takes classes in a co-ed environment, he often finds it easy to make friends with female students. Why? Because these young woman feel both unthreatened — "He's going to be a priest, right?" — and also attracted by a man who is intentionally pursuing holiness. And the seminarian himself can feel the same way about a good-looking student in his philosophy class. As one seminary professor observed, "It's hard to resist virtue in a pretty package."

Writing about sexual attraction in his famous book *Love and Responsibility*, Karol Wojtyla wrote that "Love begins with desire." But when you're discerning your vocation, that strong attraction can become a burdensome *distraction*. Like the young Jorge Bergoglio, who found himself unable to pray because of visions of an Argentinean beauty, some guys can become distraught, falling into a cycle of "God or the girl" obsession.

Many vocation directors have noted that a candidate often meets the "woman of his dreams" the summer before entering seminary. Just as frequently, though, the men who delayed seminary to pursue a last-minute relationship experience disappointment in the end.

So, if you are serious about discerning priesthood, the best advice is to *discern one vocation at a time*. Sometimes a man goes on a "dating fast," reasoning that it would not be fair to lead on a woman if the priesthood was constantly in the back of his mind. Think about it from this perspective: if you were dating a woman and found yourself falling in love, how would you feel if she announced, "I'm very seriously considering religious life; I was just dating you to rule out marriage."

Sexual attraction is both beautiful and good — and it doesn't magically disappear when you put on a black shirt with a white collar. After all, even the Holy Father had to work through a crush as a young Jesuit seminarian. So as you discern, be realistic about your attractions, and don't let them disturb your peace.

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



THE TWIST ENDING

This week my children were learning about energy. We set up an experiment with toy cars one was placed in front of another, and a third was pushed into the two stationary ones. The forward motion caused the front car to move, but not much. "Most of the energy goes into the car in the middle, not the car on the end," my daughter concluded. I asked her why she seems to have so much energy, and i seem to have so little. "Because you're old," she replied confidently. Most days I feel like that first car, barreling at life with all my energy and love and good intentions, only to have it almost entirely absorbed by the proverbial middle car. It's so easy to be discouraged. The devil so badly wants us to feel discouraged But the law of love is not unlike the law of conservation of energy. Love is neither created nor destroyed. It is only transferred from one form to another. And yes, sometimes it certainly seems like it disappears. It appears to get lost between my hands and the plate of dinner that goes uneaten or evaporates off of my lips as words I fear are never heard. It is spat upon as a commandment the world would prefer I do not keep. But we are not called to simply love one

another- to love when it seems effective and productive and appreciated. We are called to love as Christ loved recklessly, selflessly, and yes, even without logic. We are called to love with a love that doesn't give up and is never withdrawn. A love that doesn't fear death or the world's hatred. A love that stands willing to argue, to be reviled, to be dismissed. We are called to be that first car, hurtling ourselves against a world that isn't ready to accept or understand us. And we trust that, even when we can't see how, the love that seems to disappear simply changes forms. "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you." John 15:12

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



MY NEIGHBOR IS JUST BEGINNING TO EXPLORE THE CATHOLIC FAITH BUT WAS RAISED AGNOSTIC. I GREW UP BELIEVING IN GOD. PRAYING, AND ATTENDING MASS. HOW DOES ONE START FROM SCRATCH AS AN ADULT TO DEVELOP A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?

Start on a personal level! How did you and your neighbor become friends? How did you begin to discuss such a personal topic as faith? Communication, spending time together, and getting to know each other are essential to forming the bonds of a relationship. Personal prayer is essential to our relationship with God. We can't be close to someone we don't know! Invite your friend to explore the stories of Jesus in the Bible. Introduce them to the lives of the saints, especially ones you think they might be interested in. Your neighbor might also have questions about the Catholic faith that you don't know how to answer. If your friend hasn't yet enrolled in RCIA classes, invite them to Mass at your parish. Introduce your friend to the faith formation director to make a connection. Personal support can be helpful as well, especially if few of your neighbor's current friends are practicing their faith. Connect your neighbor to other people in your parish living their faith well. The good examples of other faithful people could help your neighbor to feel welcomed and supported. Our Church is vibrant and alive!

