OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH

23-25 Newtown Avenue, Astoria, NY 11102
Tel. 718.278.1834 | www.mountcarmelastoria.org

Pastoral Staff

Pastor
Rev. Msgr. Cuong M. Pham

Parochial Vicars
Rev. Michael McHugh
Rev. Hung Sy Tran

Permanent Deacons
Deacon Ruben Mendez
Deacon Jacob Rodriguez

Parish Manager
Celeste Stewart
cstewart@diobrook.org

Religious Ed Coordinator
Nelly Gutierrez
ccdmountcarmel@gmail.com

Parish Secretary
Luis Sanchez
Lsanchez@diobrook.org

Music Director
Lucille Mascia

Youth Minister
Dayonel Mejia

Mass Times

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

Live-streamed Masses can be accessed on our website

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—5:00pm

Follow us on Social Media:
@OLMCAstoria

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8
(Saint Jerome Emiliani, Saint Josephine Bakhita)
5:00pm Luis Alvarez *(NYPD),* Rose Tavano, Amalia Lanteri, Anthony Servini, Ed Moser, Onorina Persic, Alves Family

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 *(Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time)*
8:00am Joseph Scarola
9:00am Vito D'Arrigo
9:30am Gregorio Nuñez *(42nd Anniversary)*
11:00am Nicoletta Todisco
12:30pm Inés Sierra Huerta, José Flavio Santos, Lucia Puentes, Reyna González Lucero, Francisco Flores *(Memorial de Cumpleaños y 5to Aniversario de Muerte)*
Presentación de Bella Esmeralda Chávez
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10 *(Saint Scholastica)*
8:00am Nicola & Serafina DiPompo & Family
12:00pm Lawrence Lacy

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 *(Our Lady of Lourdes)*
8:00am Patricia Gannon
12:00pm Joseph Thinh Pham

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12
8:00am Vincenzo & Giuseppa Barretta and Family
12:00pm John Thu Pham

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13
8:00am Mose Min *(Death Anniversary)*
12:00pm Rosa & Antonio Dilluvio

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14 (Saint Cyril & Methodius)
8:00am Giuseppe & Bernarda DiLorenzo
12:00pm Mary & Carmelo Cini

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15
8:00am Alfred, Sr. Margarita & Al Magistrado, Jr.
5:00pm Sheila & Ray Carrol, Amalia Lanteri, Manuel, Camilia & Mariano Sanchez, Ester Monterio *(Living– Birthday)*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 *(Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time)*
8:00am God's blessings for Laura Cristina Roldan Perez for her Marriage & Pregnancy
9:00am Maddalena Giampino
9:30am Leonor & Manuela Sencion
11:00am Giulio Moretti
12:30pm Feliciano Verdejo, Ricardo Camacho Chiri, Roberto & Ricardo Camacho de la Puente, Williams de la Puente González, Reyna González Lucero, Julia Isabel Bravo *(Primer Aniversario de Muerte)*
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION

February 9, 2025- There will be a second collection after communion for our parish maintenance. Thank you for your generosity.

MEMORIAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Altar Candles this week are being offered for ***Nicola & Serafina DiPompo and Family****, offered by Ida Barretta*

The Altar Flowers, Bread & Wine and Sanctuary Lamp are being offered ***In Thanksgiving to God for Abraham & Cynthia Guevara on their 50th Wedding Anniversary***

The Tree of Life: (east wall of the church vestibule)
Gift categories include:

Silver Leaf:	$ 500.00
Gold Leaf:	$1,000.00
Gold Rock at Base of Tree:	$2,500.00
Weekly Altar Flowers:	$100.00
Weekly Altar Bread and Wine:	$35.00
Weekly Sanctuary Lamp:	$25.00
Weekly Altar Candles:	$15.00

INFANT BAPTISM/ BAUTISMOS

Please call the office to make an appointment to speak with Deacon Jacob to register your child for Baptism.

Preparation Meeting Tuesday—6:00pm—Institute	Baptism Ceremony 12:00pm—Upper Church
February 18, 2025	February 22, 2025
March 18, 2025	March 22, 2025
NO CLASS AVAILABLE	*NO ENGLISH BAPTISMS*
May 20, 2025	May 24, 2025
June 24, 2025	June 28, 2025
Reunion de Preparacion Martes—6:00pm—Instituto	**Ceremonia de Bautismo 12:00pm—Iglesia de Arriba**
4 de Marzo 2025	8 de Marzo 2025
8 de Abril 2025	12 de Abril 2025
NO CLASE DISPONIBLE MAYO	*NO BAUTISMOS EN MAYO*
10 de Junio 2025	14 de Junio 2025

GROUPS AND SOCIETIES AT OUR PARISH INSTITUTE

Sunday, February 9

8:00am—11:30am	Italian Community	*Lourdes A/B*
9:30am—11:00am	Grupo de Amistad #5	*Assumption*
9:30am—10:30am	Grupo de Amistad #14	*Nazareth*
10:00am—11:00am	Grupo de Amistad #9	*Balcony*
10:00am—12:00pm	Spanish OCIA	*Upper Room+ Fatima*
10:00am—12:30pm	Cursillo	*Guadalupe A*
10:00am—1:00pm	Czech Community	*Guadalupe B*
1:30pm—3:00pm	Via Crucis Meeting	*Guadalupe A*

Monday, February 10

7:00am—5:00pm	TYWLS	*Gym*
6:00pm—9:00pm	CYO	*Gym*
6:00pm—9:00pm	Practica Via Crucis	Guadalupe A

Tuesday, February 11

7:00am—4:00pm	TYWLS	*Gym*
3:30pm—6:00pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	*Fatima*
5:30pm—7:00pm	Mariachi	*Balcony*
6:00pm—9:00pm	CYO	*Gym*
6:00pm—9:00pm	Marriage Encounter	*Guadalupe A/B+ Fatima*
7:00pm—9:00pm	Coro #2	Nazareth

Wednesday, February 12

7:00am—4:00pm	TYWLS	*Gym*
4:00pm—7:30pm	Religious Education	*All Rooms+ Gym*
7:30pm—9:00pm	CYO	*Gym*
8:00pm—10:00pm	Knights of Columbus	*Guadalupe A/B*

Thursday, February 13

7:00am—5:00pm	TYWLS	*Gym*
10:00am—11:30am	Legion of Mary	*Guadalupe B*
5:30pm—7:30pm	Religious Education	*All Rooms+ Gym*
7:15pm—8:00pm	Set Up	*Guadalupe B*
7:30pm—9:00pm	CYO	*Gym*
7:45pm—10:00pm	Jornada Meeting	*Lourdes B*

Friday, February 14

7:00am—4:00pm	TYWLS	*Gym*
4:30pm—12:00am	Youth Valentines Dance	*Gym*
6:30pm—9:00pm	Practica de Instrumentos	*Fatima*
7:00pm—9:00pm	OCIA Class	*Lourdes A/B*

Saturday, February 15

8:00am—8:00pm	CYO	*Gym*
9:00am—12:30pm	AA Meeting	*Guadalupe A/B*
10:00am—12:00pm	Spanish Children's Choir	*Fatima*
4:00pm—9:00pm	Adult Sewing Group	*Lourdes A/B*
5:00pm—7:00pm	Bilingual Choir Practice	*Nazareth*
5:00pm—7:00pm	Ministerio de Consolacion	*Fatima*
6:00pm—7:30pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	Guadalupe *A/B*

MASS ATTENDANCE RECORD

Weekend of February 1-2	Number of Attendees
5:00pm English Vigil	128
8:00am English	89
9:00am Italian	31
9:30am Bilingual	172
10:00am Czech	24
11:00am English	196
12:30pm Spanish	559
3:00pm Vietnamese	53

WEEKLY MASS OFFERINGS

REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 1 & 2

Last Sunday: $5,948 Same Week Last Year: $5,609

FAITH DIRECT

January 2025: $5,352 January 2024: $4,394

FAITH DIRECT

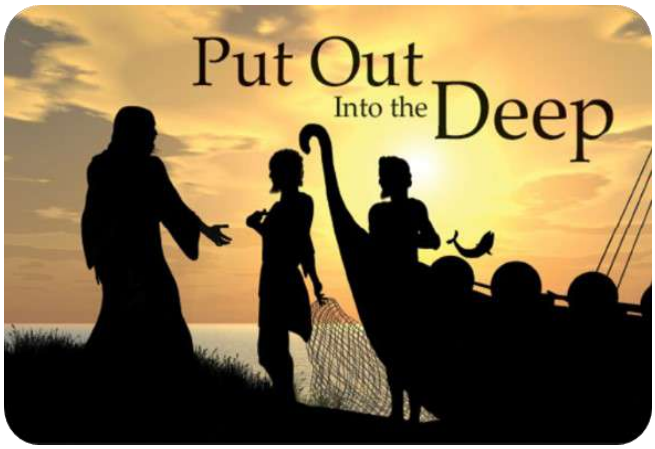
The new year is filled with hope and promise as we seek to grow our vital ministries, explore new ways to share the good news of Christ's love, and reflect His care and mercy to those in need throughout the community. To continue to make a difference in 2025, we are reaching out to our parishioners.

Begin the new year with eGiving to help sustain and build ministries throughout 2025 that reflect the steadfast promise of God's love. The need is great in our community, and your generous online gifts will help people all around us. Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/NY370 or call their Customer Service team at 866-507-8757.

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

February 9, 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,



As we gather on this Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Word of God offers us a profound lesson in perseverance and trust in the Lord, even when discouragement threatens to overtake us.

We see this vividly in the story of Simon Peter (Luke 5:1–11). He had worked tirelessly through the night, casting his nets again and again, only to pull them up empty. Any fisherman can understand his exhaustion and frustration. But then, Jesus enters his boat, and everything changes. Jesus commands him to **"put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch."** At first, Peter hesitates—he has already tried and failed. But then comes his act of faith: **"Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets."**

How often do we find ourselves in Peter's shoes? We give our best—our time, our prayers, our love—yet we see no results. A mother raises her daughter in the faith, only to watch her walk away from the Church. A couple rejoices when their son enters the seminary, only to grieve when he abandons it, drawn by influences that ultimately leave him lost.

But discouragement does not only come in great moments of heartbreak. It appears in everyday struggles: A person shows kindness and patience to another, only to be ignored or treated coldly. A hardworking individual takes bold steps in faith, only to encounter repeated failures. A spouse gives tirelessly to strengthen their marriage, but it never seems enough. A devoted catechist pours her heart into her students, yet one refuses to engage, showing no desire or appreciation. She wonders, **"Am I making a difference?"**

Even priests, who have given their lives in service to Christ and His Church, often feel this weight. They strive to meet the needs of their parishioners in an increasingly complex world. They pour themselves out in ministry, yet the complaints still come, their sacrifices go unrecognized, and their congregation does not seem to grow. They ask, **"Is my sacrifice worth it?"**

At these moments, discouragement whispers, **"Why keep trying?"** But today's Gospel speaks a truth greater than our frustrations: **Faith is not about immediate results. It is about trust.**

Peter did not see the fish before he cast his nets—he saw only empty waters. Yet he obeyed, not because success was guaranteed, but because Jesus commanded him. And when he did, the nets overflowed.

Perhaps God is calling us to cast our nets into deeper waters. Maybe our efforts seem fruitless now, but His plan is unfolding in ways we cannot yet see. The mother grieving her daughter's choices may one day see faith rekindled. The couple mourning their son's lost vocation may discover that God is guiding him in a different but meaningful way. The catechist who wonders if her student has gained anything may be planting a seed that will bear fruit years later. The priest who questions his impact may one day see, in eternity, the countless souls he has led closer to God.

The Gospel calls us to **remain faithful—to trust that when we cast our nets at Christ's command, He will bring the catch in His time.** This is not blind optimism; it is the deep assurance that **God is at work, even in our struggles.**

So today, I invite you to reflect: **What is the "deep water" Jesus is calling you to enter?** What discouragement is weighing you down, making you hesitate to try again? **Listen to His voice. Lower your nets once more. And trust that He will provide, in ways beyond your imagining.**

With faith and encouragement,

Msgr. Cuong M. Pham

DEL CORAZON DEL PASTOR

9 de febrero, 2025

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

En este Quinto Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario, la Palabra de Dios nos ofrece una enseñanza profunda sobre la perseverancia y la confianza en el Señor, especialmente cuando el desaliento toca nuestras vidas.

El Evangelio de hoy (Lucas 5,1-11) nos presenta a Simón Pedro, quien pasó toda la noche trabajando sin descanso, echando las redes una y otra vez, solo para sacarlas vacías. Podemos imaginar su cansancio y frustración. Pero entonces, Jesús entra en su barca y todo cambia. Le dice: **“Lleva la barca mar adentro y echen sus redes para pescar.”** Pedro duda al principio—ya lo ha intentado y ha fracasado. Pero finalmente responde con fe: **“Maestro, hemos trabajado toda la noche y no hemos pescado nada; pero, confiado en tu palabra, echaré las redes.”**

¿Cuántas veces ustedes han sentido lo mismo que Pedro? Se esfuerzan, oran, trabajan con dedicación, aman con todo el corazón… y, sin embargo, los resultados no llegan. Una madre ha criado a su hija en la fe, le ha enseñado a orar, a confiar en Dios, a amar a la Iglesia, y con dolor ve cómo esa hija se aleja de todo lo que aprendió. Una pareja se llena de gozo cuando su hijo entra al seminario, pero después sufre al ver cómo lo deja y se desvía por caminos inciertos.

El desaliento también se hace presente en las situaciones diarias: en la persona que actúa con bondad y paciencia con los demás, solo para ser ignorada o maltratada; en el trabajador que lucha con honestidad, pero encuentra fracaso tras fracaso; en el esposo o la esposa que entrega todo por su matrimonio, pero siente que nunca es suficiente para la otra persona; en la catequista que enseña con pasión, pero ve a un estudiante desinteresado, sin ganas de aprender ni de valorar su esfuerzo.

Incluso los sacerdotes, quienes han entregado su vida al servicio de Cristo y su Iglesia, a menudo sienten este peso. Se esfuerzan por atender a sus comunidades en un mundo cada vez más exigente, celebran los sacramentos, guían, escuchan, acompañan… y aun así, las quejas no faltan, sus sacrificios parecen pasar desapercibidos y, en algunos casos, su parroquia no parece crecer. Se preguntan: **"¿Está sirviendo de algo todo lo que hago?"**

Es en esos momentos cuando el desaliento susurra: **“¿Para qué seguir intentándolo?”** Pero el Evangelio de hoy nos recuerda que la fe no se trata de ver resultados inmediatos, sino de confiar en Dios.

Pedro no vio los peces antes de lanzar sus redes—solo vio el mar vacío. Pero obedeció, no porque tenía garantía de éxito, sino porque Jesús se lo pidió. Y cuando lo hizo, sus redes se llenaron hasta el punto de romperse.

Dios ve lo que ustedes no pueden ver. Él conoce los frutos de sus esfuerzos, aunque en este momento no los perciban. La madre que hoy llora por su hija puede verla regresar un día con un corazón arrepentido. El catequista que lucha con un estudiante indiferente puede estar sembrando una semilla que dará fruto más adelante. La persona que hoy es rechazada por su bondad puede estar tocando el corazón de alguien que más tarde se acercará a Dios. Y el sacerdote que se pregunta si su ministerio está dando frutos, quizá en la eternidad verá cuántas almas han sido guiadas a Cristo gracias a su fidelidad.

El Evangelio nos llama a permanecer fieles, a confiar en que cuando echamos las redes a la orden de Cristo, Él traerá la pesca en su tiempo. Esto no es optimismo vacío; es la certeza profunda de que Dios está obrando, incluso en nuestras luchas.

Hoy les invito a reflexionar: **¿Cuál es el “mar profundo” al que Jesús los está llamando? ¿En qué aspecto de su vida sienten que están cansados, sin ganas de intentarlo otra vez?** Escuchen su voz. **Bajen las redes una vez más. Y confíen en que Dios hará el resto**.

Con fe y esperanza,

Mons. Cuong M. Pham

NATIVITY STATUES AVAILABLE

As we make space in our church storage, we are offering a number of Nativity statues to any parishioners who would like to give them a new home. These statues come from various sets we have used over the years, in different sizes and styles. While some may need a bit of touch-up painting, they are still in good, usable condition. If you are interested, please contact the parish office. First come, first served!

SE REGALAN ESTATUAS DEL NACIMIENTO

Para hacer espacio en la parroquia, estamos regalando varias estatuas del Nacimiento a quienes deseen conservarlas en su hogar. Son de distintos tamaños y estilos, ya que han sido usadas en la iglesia a lo largo de los años. Algunas pueden necesitar un retoque de pintura, pero en general están en buenas condiciones. Si le interesa llevarse alguna, comuníquese con la oficina parroquial lo antes posible. ¡Se entregan en orden de solicitud!

MASS BOOK OPENING

The second half of the Mass book from July to December 2025 will open on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 when the parish opens at 9:00am. Mass Intention Request forms will be available by the doors of the church next weekend. Please do not submit these forms before the 18th, they will not be accepted. **Please note that the Mass stipend has increased to $20 per intention.**

IS OPTIONAL CELIBACY AN OPTION?

This is a hotly debated topic. There are good arguments on both sides, and there is no clear answer that emerges. However, the shortage of clergy in denominations that do allow marriage would seem to indicate that optional celibacy is not the quick answer that some might think. No one solution is perfect. Each one has its flaws and problems that are not easily solved. While optional celibacy would open ordination to some great men who are married, it also brings the problems of family, financial support, marital problems, and issues good and bad of childrearing. So it would not seem that optional celibacy is a realistic solution to the shortage of clergy.

With all of the varied challenges and problems facing the Church, it is easy to forget that the Holy Spirit leads us. Openness, dialogue, and education are second to our prayers and petitions to the Holy Spirit to make clear the path the Church should follow. A response that is rooted in a culture of political correctness is almost certainly doomed; a response that is rooted in prayer and in God cannot fail.

PURGATORIAL SOCIETY

We remember 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) as a meaningful way to express our love. Enrollment is $10 per name. Those enrolled the Purgatorial Society will be remembered for a whole year. Currently enrolled: **Ulises Meza, Nelson Morales, Julio Cesar Valentin, Anabel Garcia Barcena, Sandra Garcia, Rodolfo Avila Lazaro, Jesus Pinzon Villanueva, Diana Alba, Jorge Lavandera, Lucia Puentes, Emilia Rendon, Isauro Villanueva Chavez, Eulalio Valentin, Franco Valente Nava, Inoel Valente, Maestra Sofia, David Leyva, Candido Torres, Juan Carlos Larumbe, Tello Lorenzo, Proto Abarca, Maura Morales.**

KNIGHTS OF COLOMBUS

The Knights of Columbus have established a council in Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish. We are looking for men to join the Order. You must be a man, at least eighteen years old and be in union with the Catholic Church. The Knights meet in the Guadalupe room in the Institute every second Wednesday of the month. Thank you.

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 Thomas Gannon, Thomas Dugan, and Louella Coligado, Edwin Alvarez.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah eagerly accepted God's call to serve once his sin was removed. What helps you be open to serve others?

Second Reading: Paul reminds the Corinthians of the Gospel message he proclaimed to them about Jesus's death and resurrection appearances. What do you think makes preaching successful?

Gospel: In Jesus' call of the first disciples, we see Peter's obedience and humility. How might you put these virtues into practice this week?

GOSPEL MEDITATION

My parents garage is full of old junk that no longer serves any purpose in my life. As a 46-year-old man, I admit that's pretty lame. Either due to my sentimentality or laziness (or both, probably). I just couldn't get myself to throw things away. But a few days ago, by a grace of God, I thought: "I'll hire my nephew Ryan to throw a bunch of my stuff away he couldn't care less about my junk!" And you know what? It worked. In one day, Ryan chucked the majority of his uncle's useless stuff.. I feel so free, ready for a new junk-free chapter in my life.

This kind of thing happens in this Sunday's Gospel. Peter's net is full of useless junk. Luke says he and the others are cleaning their nets after catching no fish. Imagine them dejectedly and impatiently removing a nasty assortment of seaweed, sticks and muck. The Lord teaches and calls them once their nets are cleared out. So it goes with us. Spiritual life begins by removing that which is useless and merely taking up space in our hearts, minds and lives. Then Jesus teaches and acts in a marvelous way in our lives, too.

So what's junking up your net? What habits, attachments, possessions, preoccupations? if, like me, you struggle to clean your nets by yourself, ask the Lord to send you someone like my nephew to be your "Peter" and help you clean it out. It is well worth it. Once Peter's net is clean, he is free to make a wonderful catch.

Father John Muir

ARCHBISHOP HEERY TECHNICAL COLLEGE, NIGERIA– MESSAGE FROM FR. PJ

I would proudly like to share an exciting update about our students at Archbishop Heery Technical College, that won First Place out of 54 countries in Africa in the World Affairs Challenge. The school's team is now preparing to travel to Denver, CO for the Global Championships in May, 2025.

They have also won 3rd place in the Secondary School's Challenge where their project was composed of a Solar Tracker, which tracks the direction of the sun and repositions solar panels to maximize sunshine.

Please know that your donations are yielding big and amazing results in the performance of our students. I ask for your continued prayers and God willing, I will be back to visit NYC this summer.

ROSARY SOCIETY NEWS

The next Rosary Society meeting will take place on **March 2, 2025** at the conclusion of the bilingual Mass in the Lourdes Room in the Parish Institute. $3.00 per person is the donation for refreshments. Yearly dues are $10.00 per person. All ladies over age 15 are invited to join. Bring a friend!

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, March 7, 2025**. 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.

Baseball ASTORIA ICYP BASEBALL • FOOTBALL • SOFTBALL YOUTH PROGRAM Softball

Spring 2025 Registration

Register now at nyicyp.org

Birth Years	ICYP Division	Early Bird Rates Apply until February 1st
2021 / 2020 2019 / 2018	Tee Ball (5U) Rookie (7U)	$185 Early Bird Registration (by February 1st) **$225 Standard Registration Feb. 2nd - March 16th ***
2017 / 2016 / 2015 2014 / 2013 2012 / 2011 / 2010	PeeWee (10U) Midget (12U) Juniors (15U)	$235 Early Bird Registration (by February 1st) **$275 Standard Registration Feb. 2nd - March 16th ***

***LATE REGISTRATIONS** are NOT guaranteed. If space is available, there is a late registration fee of $25.*

Early Bird Rates until February 1st.

Registration ends March 16th.

ICYP Astoria Youth Programs
35-15 20th Avenue
Astoria, NY 11105
(718) 278-9782
icyp.astoria@gmail.com
nyicyp.org

REGISTRATION LINK

SCAN ME

Join us April - late June for a fun spring season!

ICYP's instructional baseball & softball program provides children the opportunity to play in an organized league setting, develop skills, teamwork & sportsmanship. Games start in April. Please follow us on Facebook or see our website for details and updates.

THE CATCH

What does it mean to lower your net? It means to listen to God, even when you don't understand Him. It means to keep trying the hard thing that you know is the right thing. It means to keep loving the person who is making life hard on you.

I love today's Gospel passage, and not just because I love a good fish fry.

I love it because I am Peter. Over and over again, I am Peter, standing here exhausted because I relied on my own abilities. and it got me nowhere. I'm ready to call it quits. I'm ready to say it's too hard. And here comes Jesus, asking me to lower my net. To keep trying.

And I try to talk sense into him. "It's not going to work, God," I insist. "I've been trying."

"You've been trying," Jesus agrees. "But you haven't asked for my help yet."

What does it mean to lower your net? It sounds so simple and so easy, but it takes a great deal of humility and trust. I think I'm the expert on my own life, the captain of my own ship. Peter probably thought so, too he was the fisherman, after all. Why would a fisherman listen to a carpenter on matters of fishing?

Lowering your net means giving God control and letting yourself be changed by what He chooses to show you.

It means to listen to God's instructions, even when you don't understand them, even when you find them frustrating. It means to keep trying the hard thing that you know is the right thing, even when it hasn't born much fruit. It means to keep loving the person who is making life hard on you, even when all you want to do is give into feelings of bitterness and distrust.

If we would only lower our nets, the catch would astound us.

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

JUBILEE PILGRIMS FUNDRAISER

Valentine's Dance

JUBILEE 2025

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

Music by:

JESUS GUTIERREZ

DJ, YAKO.

Para información.
(347) 453-7139.

FEBRUARY 14TH

DOORS OPEN- PUERTAS SE ABREN 7:00PM

Admission Price: $20 Adults

$10 Chilren Ages 5-12 & Under 5 enter Free

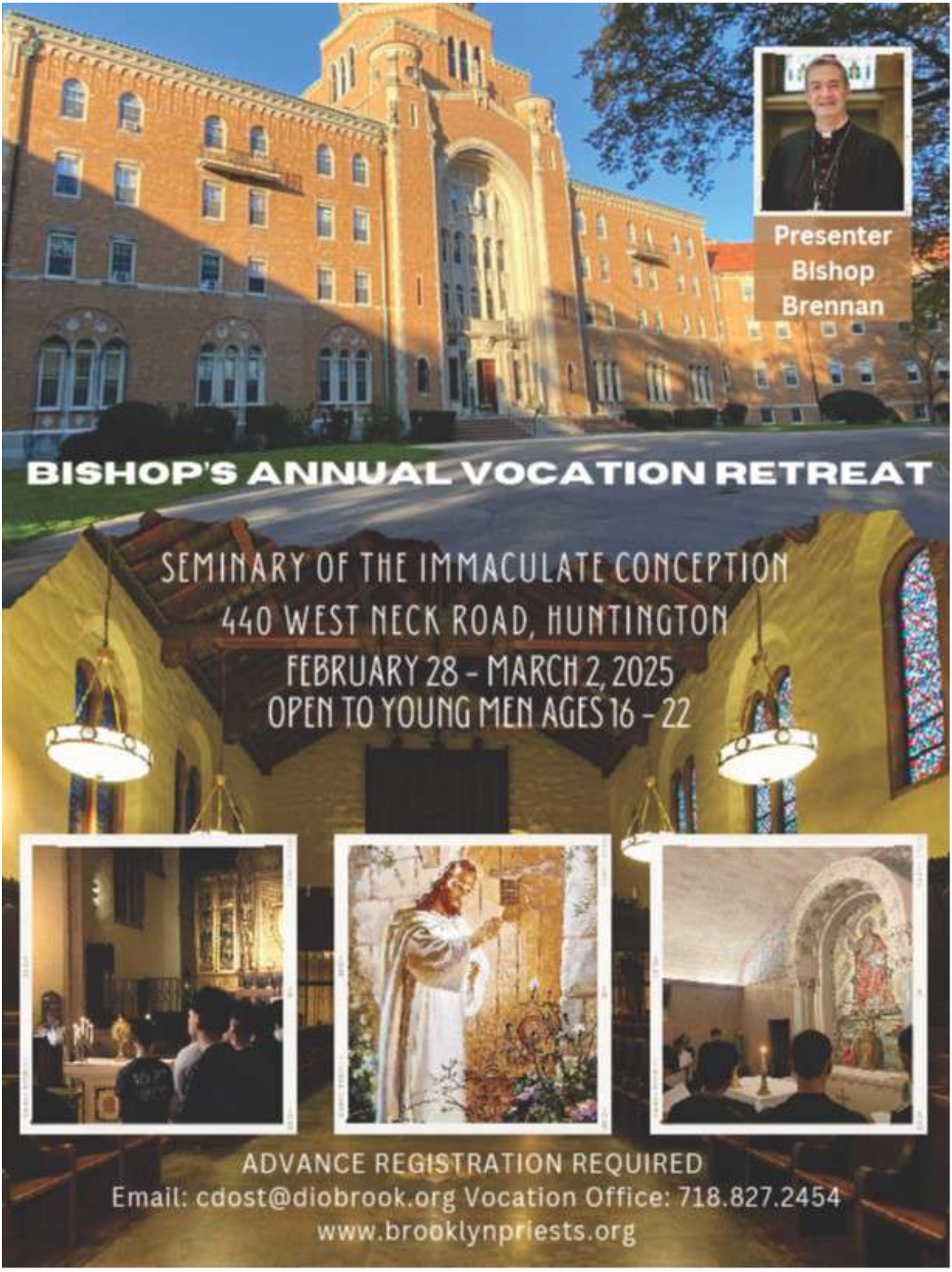
Thank you for supporting our young jubilarian pilgrims!
¡Gracias por apoyar a nuestros peregrinos jubileanos!

Food & Drinks For Sale

23-20 Newtown Avenue
Astoria, NY 11102

OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL
MOTHER CHURCH OF QUEENS COUNTY

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
718.278.1834

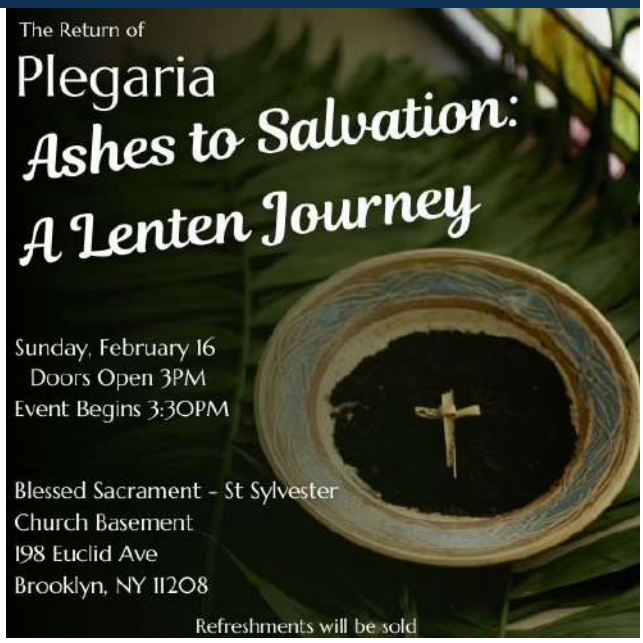

Presenter
Bishop
Brennan
BISHOP'S ANNUAL VOCATION RETREAT
SEMINARY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
440 WEST NECK ROAD, HUNTINGTON
FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 2, 2025
OPEN TO YOUNG MEN AGES 16 - 22
ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Email: cdost@diobrook.org Vocation Office: 718.827.2454
www.brooklynpriests.org

OTHER YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

The Jornada Movement invites all youth to a diocesan-wide mini-retreat filled with presentations, activities, discussion & fellowship. Any youth ages 12 and over can attend.

This event will be in English and topics discussed will be focused on Lent. This is a great opportunity for your child to see and meet many Catholic youth around the Diocese of Brooklyn.

If you would like your child to attend please speak with Luis Sanchez at the parish office for more information and permission forms. Please note that food/ snacks and beverages will be available for purchase. Community service hours will be awarded to students in the Confirmation Class who attend. Limited seating for transportation available if requested.



Step away from the noise and join us for a sacred hour of adoration and prayer, focused on the boundless love of Christ and the gift of friendship. Together, we'll reflect on how God's love transforms our relationships and strengthens the bonds we share.

Afterwards all are invited to share in fellowship in the gym of the parish institute, 23-20 Newtown Avenue, Astoria, NY 11102.

Come as you are, and bring a friend! Let's draw closer to Christ, the source of all love and the perfect model of friendship. We can't wait to see you there!

"We love because He first loved us."–
1 John 4:19