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

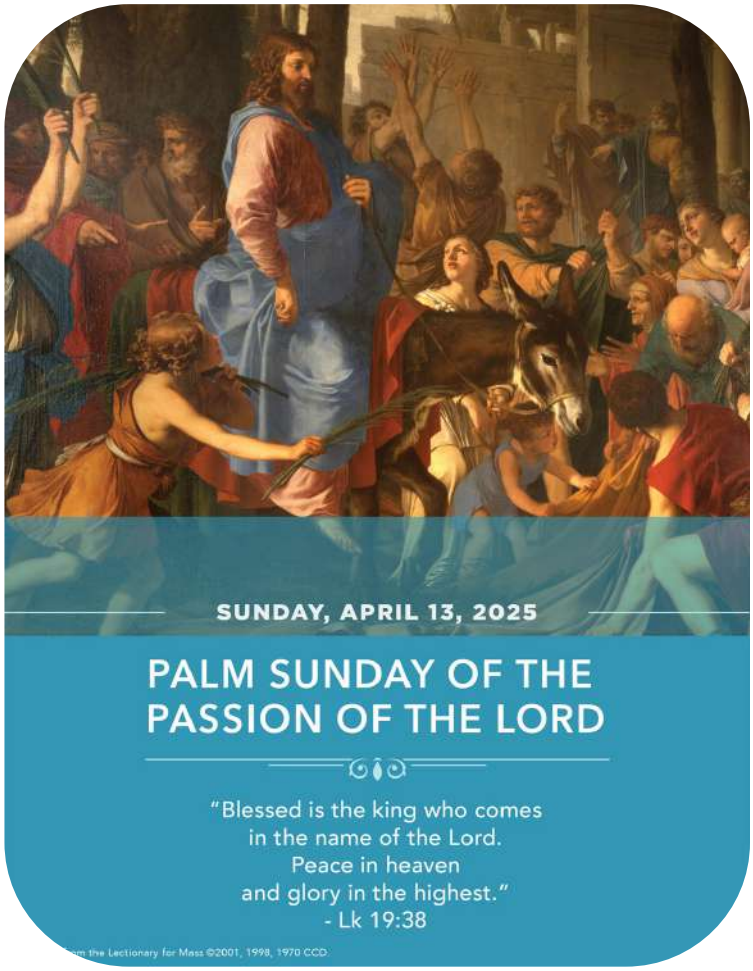
Music Director
Lucille Mascia

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, APRIL 12

5:00pm Ida Petrolino, Pearl Odu, Kathleen Zultko, Mryna Espeno

SUNDAY, APRIL 13 *(Palm Sunday)*

8:00am Aniela Wladyslaw Polkosnik
9:00am Vincenzo & Ida Augusto
9:30am Reyna & Eduardo Rivera (35 Aniversario de Boda)
11:00am Natale Forzano *(11th Anniversary)*
12:30pm Anibal Javier, Anibal Javier Jr., Maria M. Puma, Gregorio & Ambrosio Puma, Martina Lema, Julio Puma, Rosita Puma, Nestor Quizhpi, Amado Tula *(2 aniversario),* Luis Lavayen Vazquez *(14 aniversario),* Maria Cenelia Ocampo *(4 aniversario),* Pedro Luis Osorio *(Vive),* Amado Tula *(2 aniversario),* Emily Carrasco (*celebrando sus 15 años)*
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

RECONCILIATION MONDAY, APRIL 14

8:00am
12:00pm Mildred Ciangiola
12:30pm—2:00pm Confessions in the Chapel
6:30pm—8:00pm Confessions in the Chapel

TUESDAY, APRIL 15

8:00am Giuseppe & Bernarda DiLorenzo
12:00pm Yolanda & Hector Conde
7:00pm Siete Dolores de Maria– Capilla

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

8:00am Giuseppa & Vincenzo Barretta and Family
12:00pm Francesco—Matteo Salamone
7:00pm Esaciones de la Cruz— Capilla

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 17

7:30pm Patrick & Mary Kerrigan
Followed by Adoration until Midnight

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 18

12:00pm Stations of the Cross
2:00pm Italian Liturgy of the Lord's Passion— Chapel
3:00pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
6:30pm Siete Ultimas Palabras
7:30pm Liturgia de la Pasion de Nuestro Señor
7:30pm Czech Liturgy of the Lord's Passion— Chapel
9:00pm Vietnamese Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 19

12:00pm Prayer & Easter Food Blessing
8:00pm Gilberto & Neida Martinez, Pearl Odu, Patrick & Mart Kerrigan, Kathleen Zultko

SUNDAY, APRIL 20

8:00am Joseph Paul Immordino
9:00am Per La Comunita Italiana
9:30am Intentions of OLMC Jornada Group
11:00am Joseph Thinh Pham
12:30pm Feliciano Verdejo *(2 Aniversario),* Miembros Fallecidos de la Familia Méndez, Consepcion Garcia *(5 Aniversario),* Socorro Vázquez Rodriguez, Ciro Bravo *(Memorial de Cumpleaños),* Elvis Anthony Martinez, Manuel Ortega, Digna Tito, Julio & Alma Toribio *(27 Aniversario de Boda)*
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

MEMORIAL GIFTS THIS WEEK

The Altar Candles are being offered in memory of ***Agnes Ann Harley,*** *by the Hasselberg Family*

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

Second collections are taken after communion during Sunday Masses. Thank you for your generosity.

April 13, 2025– Maintenance Collection
April 20, 2025— Retired Priests

2025 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

we invite each family to consider making a tax-deductible gift today. Our goal is to receive a prayerful offering from every family, no matter the amount, so that together we can reach our goal! As of April 7, 2025, we have 51 donors who have pledged $21,099 from which $13,574 has been received.

FAITH DIRECT

FAITH DIRECT®
inspiring secure giving ®

During Lent we are reminded to develop a more conscious spiritual life and share what we have with those in need. One practical way to achieve this goal is to make the change to eGiving for your parish support.

You can use Faith Direct, to deepen your commitment to the church and the ministries you care about most. Your recurring gifts will sustain our mission month after month. You will also help our parish by cutting costs for envelopes and paper and allowing our staff to spend less time processing cash and checks and more time on ministries.

Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/NY370 or call their Customer Service team at 866-507-8757.

GROUPS AND SOCIETIES AT OUR PARISH INSTITUTE

Sunday, April 13

8:00am—11:00am	Italian Community	Lourdes A/B
9:30am—11:00am	Grupo de Amistad #5	*Assumption*
10:00am—11:00am	Grupo de Amistad #9	*Balcony*
10:00am—12:00pm	Spanish OCIA	*Upper Room+ Fatima*
10:00am—1:00pm	Czech Community	*Guadalupe B*
10:00am—12:30pm	Cursillo	*Guadalupe A*
1:30pm—5:00pm	Via Crucis Food Sale & Practice	*Gym*
2:00pm—3:00pm	Grupo de Amistad #14	*Fatima*
3:00pm—5:00pm	Reunion de Secretariado	*Fatima*

Monday, April 14

6:00am—9:00pm	Via Crucis Choir	*Guadalupe A*
6:00pm—9:00pm	CYO	*Gym*

Tuesday, April 15

5:30pm—7:00pm	Academia Mariachi	*Balcony*
6:00pm—9:00pm	CYO	*Gym*
6:00pm—9:00pm	Marriage Encounter	*Guadalupe A/B+ Fatima*
7:30pm—8:30pm	Clase de Guitarra	*Lourdes A/B*
7:00pm—9:00pm	Coro #1	Nazareth

Wednesday, April 16

12:00pm—6:00pm	Mothers "Baby Shower"	*Gym*
7:30pm—9:00pm	CYO	*Gym*
8:00am—10:00pm	Knights of Columbus	Guadalupe B

Thursday, April 17

10:00am—11:30am	Legion of Mary	*Guadalupe B*
7:30pm—9:00pm	CYO	*Gym*

Friday, April 18

5:00pm—10:00pm	CYO	*Gym*
6:30pm—9:00pm	OLMC Youth Group	*Guadalupe A/B*
6:30pm—9:00pm	Practica de Instrumentos	*Fatima*
7:00pm—9:00pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	*Nazareth*
7:00pm—9:00pm	OCIA Class	*Lourdes A/B*

Saturday, April 19

9:00am—12:30pm	AA Meeting	*Guadalupe A/B*
10:00am—12:00pm	Spanish Children's Choir	*Fatima*
10:00am—1:00am	Saturday Lessons in Faith	*Lourdes A/B*
5:00pm—7:00pm	Bilingual Choir Practice	*Nazareth*
5:00pm—7:00pm	Ministerio de Consolacion	*Lourdes A/B*
7:00pm—9:00pm	Porque Ser Catolico?	*Fatima*

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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. If you are interested go to KofC.org/JoinUs or contact Peter Perroni, peterperroni040@gmail.com. Thank you.

MASS ATTENDANCE RECORD

Weekend of April 5-6	Number of Attendees
5:00pm English Vigil	133
8:00am English	117
9:00am Italian	26
9:30am Bilingual	185
10:00am Czech	—
11:00am English	256
12:30pm Spanish	341
3:00pm Vietnamese	76

WEEKLY MASS OFFERINGS

REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR ARIL 5 & 6

Last Sunday: $5,906
Same Week Last Year: $5,635
(Does not include Faith Direct)

Waster Gift to Church: $3,632

INFANT BAPTISM/ BAUTISMOS

Preparation Meeting	**Baptism Ceremony**
Tuesday—6:00pm—Institute	**12:00pm—Upper Church**
NO CLASS AVAILABLE	NO APRIL BAPTISMS
May 20, 2025	May 24, 2025
June 24, 2025	June 28, 2025
July 22, 2025	July 26, 2025
August 19, 2025	August 23, 2025
September 23, 2025	September 27, 2025
October 21, 2025	October 25, 2025
November 18, 2025	November 22, 2025
December 23, 2025	December 27, 2025

Reunion de Preparacion	**Ceremonia de Bautismo**
Martes—6:00pm—Instituto	**12:00pm—Iglesia de Arriba**
8 de Abril 2025	12 de Abril 2025
NO CLASE DISPONIBLE	NO BAUTISMOS EN MAYO
10 de Junio 2025	14 de Junio 2025
8 de Julio 2025	12 de Julio 2025
5 de Agosto 2025	9 de Agosto 2025
9 de Septiembre 2025	13 de Septiembre 2025
7 de Octubre 2025	11 de Octubre 2025
4 de Noviembre 2025	8 de Noviembre 2025
9 de Diciembre 2025	13 de Diciembre 2025

ROSARY SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING

This is a reminder that the May 4th meeting is cancelled. The next Rosary Society meeting will take place on Sunday, **June 1, 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!

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

April 13, 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we enter Holy Week, the most sacred and powerful time in our Church's liturgical year, I invite you to step into this journey not as a spectator, but as a participant. These days are filled with beauty, mystery, and transforming grace. They are not only a remembrance of Christ's Passion—they are an invitation to encounter His love and be renewed by it.

We begin with Palm Sunday, echoing the joyful cries of the crowd as Jesus enters Jerusalem. But soon, we are led into the deeper mystery of His mission: to suffer, to die, and to rise again—for us. At the heart of Holy Week is the Sacred Triduum—three days that are truly one profound liturgy unfolding in time: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. We are invited to walk with Christ from the Upper Room to Calvary, and ultimately, to the Empty Tomb.

On Holy Thursday, we are brought into the intimacy of the Last Supper, where Jesus gives us two priceless gifts: the Eucharist, His real and abiding presence among us, and the priesthood, so that this Sacrament of Love may continue through time. In kneeling before His disciples and washing their feet, Jesus redefines power as service and invites us to do the same. At our parish, twelve young people from our Youth Group and Religious Education Program—chosen for their faith and leadership—will take part in this Washing of the Feet. They represent the call for all generations to follow Christ in love and service.

Good Friday brings us to the foot of the Cross. We do not celebrate Mass on this day; instead, we enter into solemn reflection, prayer, and veneration of the Cross—the instrument of our salvation. It is a day to unite our suffering with Christ's and to experience the depth of His love poured out for us. One of the most powerful devotions we offer is the outdoor Via Crucis, a dramatic reenactment of the Lord's Passion through the streets of Astoria. This moving event transforms our neighborhood into a living Gospel—a public witness to Christ's suffering love and His presence among us today.

You are invited to attend other devotions as well—including the Stations of the Cross, Seven Sorrows of Mary, Seven Last Words of Christ, and the Holy Thursday Night Vigil of Adoration—each drawing us deeper into the hearts of Jesus and Mary, who suffer and triumph for us.

Everything culminates in the glory of the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night—the most beautiful and powerful liturgy of the year. In the darkness, a single flame is lit, and from it, the Light of Christ spreads through the church. We hear the great story of our salvation and rejoice in the victory of life over death. This year, you will have the joy of hearing the ancient and beloved hymn, the *Exultet*, powerfully proclaimed by Father Joseph Hung Tran—with his cherished singing voice. In this same Vigil, we will joyfully welcome our Elect into full communion with the Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. Their journey of faith renews us all, reminding us that God is always at work, calling hearts to Himself, and making all things new.

On Easter Sunday, we rejoice with the whole Church: *Christ is Risen!* And in His Resurrection, we are raised with Him—called to new life, new hope, and a renewed commitment to live as His disciples.

I warmly encourage you to make time for the sacred liturgies and devotions offered this week. Come, even if you haven't been in a while. Come with your questions, your wounds, your joys. Let this week be more than tradition—let it be transformation. Invite a friend or loved one who may need hope. You never know what God has in store.

Please see the full schedule of Holy Week liturgies and devotions in this bulletin. I look forward to walking this sacred journey with you.

In Christ's peace and love,

Msgr. Cuong M. Pham

DEL CORAZON DEL PASTOR

13 de abril, 2025

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Al comenzar la Semana Santa, el tiempo más sagrado y poderoso del año litúrgico de nuestra Iglesia, los invito a entrar en esta jornada no como espectadores, sino como participantes. Estos días están llenos de belleza, misterio y gracia transformadora. No son solo un recuerdo de la Pasión de Cristo, sino una invitación a encontrar Su amor y a ser renovados por Él.

Comenzamos con el *Domingo de Ramos*, repitiendo los gritos de alegría de la multitud cuando Jesús entra en Jerusalén. Pero pronto somos conducidos al misterio más profundo de Su misión: sufrir, morir y resucitar—por nosotros. En el corazón de la Semana Santa está el *Triduo Pascual*: tres días que forman una sola liturgia profunda que se desarrolla en el tiempo—*Jueves Santo, Viernes Santo* y la *Vigilia Pascual*. Se nos invita a caminar con Cristo desde el Cenáculo hasta el Calvario, y finalmente, al sepulcro vacío.

En el Jueves Santo, somos llevados a la intimidad de la Última Cena, donde Jesús nos da dos dones invaluables: *la Eucaristía*, Su presencia real y permanente entre nosotros, y *el Sacerdocio*, para que este Sacramento de Amor continúe a lo largo del tiempo. Al arrodillarse ante Sus discípulos y lavarles los pies, Jesús redefine el poder como servicio, y nos invita a hacer lo mismo. Este año, doce jóvenes de nuestro Grupo Juvenil y Programa de Educación Religiosa—elegidos por su fe y liderazgo—participarán en este gesto del *Lavatorio de los Pies*. Ellos representan el llamado a todas las generaciones a seguir a Cristo en el amor y el servicio.

El Viernes Santo nos lleva al pie de la Cruz. No se celebra la Misa este día; en cambio, entramos en reflexión solemne, oración y veneración de la Cruz—el instrumento de nuestra salvación. Es un día para unir nuestro sufrimiento al de Cristo y experimentar la profundidad de Su amor. Una de las devociones más conmovedoras que ofrecemos es el *Vía Crucis* viviente al aire libre, una representación dramática de la Pasión del Señor por las calles de Astoria. Este impactante evento transforma nuestro vecindario en un Evangelio vivo—un testimonio público del amor sufriente de Cristo y de Su presencia entre nosotros hoy.

Están también invitados a participar en otras devociones—como los *Siete Dolores de María*, las *Siete Palabras de Cristo*, y la *Vigilia de Adoración del Jueves Santo*—que nos ayudan a entrar más profundamente en los corazones de Jesús y de María, quienes sufren y triunfan por nosotros.

Todo culmina en la gloria de la *Vigilia Pascual* la noche del Sábado Santo—la liturgia más hermosa y poderosa del año. En la oscuridad, se enciende una sola llama, y desde ella la Luz de Cristo se extiende por toda la iglesia. Escuchamos la gran historia de nuestra salvación y nos alegramos en la victoria de la vida sobre la muerte. Este año, tendrán la alegría de escuchar el antiguo y amado himno, el *Exultet*, proclamado con fuerza por el Padre Joseph Hung Tran—con su entrañable voz. En esta misma Vigilia, daremos una alegre bienvenida a nuestros Electos, quienes entrarán en plena comunión con la Iglesia mediante los Sacramentos del Bautismo, Confirmación y Eucaristía. Su camino de fe nos renueva a todos, recordándonos que Dios siempre está obrando, llamando corazones hacia Él, y haciendo nuevas todas las cosas.

El Domingo de Pascua, nos unimos con toda la Iglesia para proclamar con alegría: *¡Cristo ha resucitado!* Y en Su Resurrección, también nosotros resucitamos con Él—llamados a una vida nueva, una esperanza nueva, y un renovado compromiso de vivir como Sus discípulos.

Los animo de corazón a hacer tiempo para las liturgias que se ofrecen esta semana. Vengan con sus preguntas, sus heridas, sus alegrías. Que esta semana sea más que una tradición—que sea una transformación. Inviten a un amigo o ser querido que necesite esperanza. Nunca sabemos lo que Dios tiene preparado.

Por favor, consulten el horario completo de las celebraciones y devociones de Semana Santa en este boletín. Espero con alegría caminar junto a ustedes en este viaje sagrado.

En la paz y el amor de Cristo,

Mons. Cuong M. Pham

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. To add names of your loved ones to our Prayer List, please contact the parish office. Currently enrolled: **Mary Smith, Maria Vera & Rita Henriquez.**

PARISH REGISTRATION

We encourage all who worship with us to consider registering to our parish. 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 MARK ONE:

[ ] New Registration *[ ] Change of Address*
[ ] I prefer envelopes *[ ] I prefer E-giving*

REGISTRACION PARROQUIAL

BIENVENIDO

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*

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: **Frank Bickley, Consuelo Jaramillo, Nelly Olivar, Chica Vivero Barradas, Filomena Rendon, Juan Obando Zavala, Esmirna Palys, Angela Velez, Concetta Astuto, Aurora Polo de Zavala, "Pepita" Moloche de Gavilano, Geraldine Medalla, Teodula Ahuatl, Fidel Miranda.**

RECTORY CLOSINGS

The parish office will be closed on **Good Friday, April 18, 2025 and Easter Monday, April 21, 2025.** The office will reopen on Tuesday, April 22, 2025. You may find the flier for the Holy Week & Easter Schedule in this bulletin. We wish everyone a blessed Holy Week & Happy Easter.

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 2, 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.

CORONILLA CANTADA Y FIESTA EN HONOR A LA DIVINA MISERICORDIA

Coronillas
en la Iglesia Principal a las 6:30pm

31 de mayo
28 de junio
12 de julio
23 de agosto
20 de septiembre
25 de octubre
29 de noviembre

Celebración 27 de abril, 2025
en la Iglesia Principal

12:30pm- Santa Misa

Despues de Misa habra una celebracion en el Gimnasio en el Instituto Parroquial

NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL MONTE CARMELO
23-25 NEWTOWN AVENUE, ASTORIA 11102

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

718.278.1834 - www.mountcarmelastoria.org

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 13, 2025

5:00pm Saturday Vigil *(English)*

8:00am *(English)* **9:00am *(Italian-Chapel)*** **9:30am *(Bilingual)***

10:30am *(Czech-Chapel)* **11:00am *(English)*** **12:30pm *(Spanish)*** **3:00pm *(Vietnamese)***

RECONCILIATION MONDAY – APRIL 14, 2025

8:00am & 12:00pm *(Chapel)*

Confessions: 12:30pm–2:00pm & 6:30pm–8:00pm (Chapel)

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK – APRIL 15, 2025

8:00am & 12:00pm *(Chapel)*

7:00pm: Los Siete Dolores de Maria (Chapel)

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK – APRIL 16, 2025

8:00am & 12:00pm *(Chapel)*

7:00pm: Via Crucis (Spanish)

HOLY THURSDAY – APRIL 17, 2025

7:30pm: Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper *(Bilingual)*

Adoration until Midnight (Multilingual)

GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 18, 2025

12:00pm: Stations of the Cross (English)

12:00pm: Via Crucis en vivo/Outdoor Living Stations of the Cross (Bilingual)

2:00pm: Liturgia della Passione del Signore *(Italian-Chapel)*

3:00pm: Liturgy of the Lord's Passion *(English)*

5:30pm: Las Siete Últimas Palabras (Spanish)

7:30pm: Liturgia de la Pasión del Señor *(Spanish)*

7:30pm: Liturgy of the Lord's Passion *(Czech-Chapel)*

9:00pm: Liturgy of the Lord's Passion *(Vietnamese)*

HOLY SATURDAY – APRIL 19, 2025

12:00pm: Midday Prayer & Blessing of Easter Food (Chapel)

3:30pm–4:30pm: Confessions (Chapel)

8:00pm: Solemn Easter Vigil *(Multilingual)*

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 20, 2025

8:00am *(English)* **9:00am *(Italian-Chapel)*** **9:30am *(Bilingual)***

10:30am *(Czech-Chapel)* **11:00am *(English)*** **12:30pm *(Spanish)*** **3:00pm *(Vietnamese)***

Youth Group

Help the Youth Group Make it to Rome

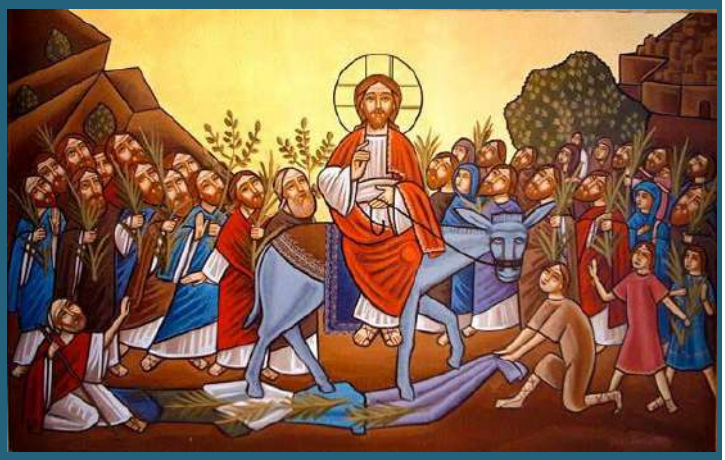
DONATE

PILGRIMS OF HOPE

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Consider how useless it is to spread your clothes on the ground for a donkey to walk on. The clothes get smeared with hooves, and who knows the grimy places where they've been? The animal may leave some unsavory presents on them. They may get stolen by a thief looking to make a buck. The thorns, thistles, rocks and muck of the road will leave stains. The clothes may never be useful again, and you'll probably walk home shivering without your normal covering. Yet this is precisely the gesture the people employ to welcome Jesus and his donkey, Why does this detail matter?

Wastefulness is an essential part of celebration. Consider the unnecessary extravagance of Christmas decorations, confetti and ticker tape parades, baseball players spraying each other with bottles of champagne after a victory, birthday gifts for kids and so on. This wastefulness signals celebration and therefore participation in higher identities (as believers, winners, and parents, to mention the above examples). That's what the wasted cloaks are all about. Those who donate their cloaks participate in Christ's kingship in Jerusalem-and we savor it two thousand years later.



"As he rode along, the people were spreading their cloaks on the road." (Luke 19:36)

The lesson? Learn how to "waste" money, time, clothes, and food on Christ. We do this at Mass, but in so many other ways, too, like serving the poor, going on retreats, and doing prayerful study. When we practice this holy wastefulness, Jesus will ride into our lives and we'll be more deeply members of his kingdom.

-Father John Muir

WHERE DO PALM SUNDAY PALMS COME FROM AND WHERE SHOULD THEY GO?

The Palm Sunday celebration has ancient origins. Beginning the liturgy "outside" the church, we symbolically reenact Christ's entry into Jerusalem. The crowds in ancient Israel waved palm branches -a symbol of royalty - to welcome Jesus. These days, obtaining palms takes a lot of planning and coordination, as hundreds of thousands of churches worldwide need them on the same day! Many in the United States order palms from Florida, California, Texas, or Central America. Many companies stress the sustainability of their production and the just wages paid to their workers.

The palms used on Palm Sunday are blessed at Mass. This means they shouldn't end up in the trash! Many people weave palms into crosses or families display them in their homes. If you do not plan on displaying your palms throughout the year, they should be burned, buried, or left at the church. In the final case, the palms are burned to provide the ashes for next year's Ash Wednesday service.

Has it been a while since your last Confession? Never done it before? Don't worry! Join us on this **MONDAY, APRIL 14** for Reconciliation Monday, a special event celebrated in 700 Catholic churches across the New York metropolitan area. Our priests will be available in the Chapel to hear Confessions from **12:30pm to 2:00pm** and again from **6:30pm to 8:00pm**. Come and experience God's forgiving love.

¿Hace mucho tiempo desde tu última Confesión? ¿Nunca lo has hecho antes? ¡No te preocupes! Únete a nosotros este **LUNES 14 DE ABRIL** para el Lunes de Reconciliación, un evento especial celebrado en 700 iglesias católicas en la ciudad de Nueva York y sus alrededores. Nuestros sacerdotes estarán disponibles en la Capilla para escuchar Confesiones de **12:30pm a 2:00pm** y nuevamente de **6:30pm a 8:00pm**. Ven y experimenta el amor perdonador de Dios.

THE STONES WILL CRY OUT

(Stare at the image from a distance. What does it say?)

I'm Catholic. I'm proud of being Catholic. But is that wordless witness really evangelization? I have a complicated relationship with evangelization. I don't think that we (I'm talking about 21st-century American Catholics here) have had much formation around what exactly it means to proclaim the Gospel. We don't know how to do it.

We don't really want to do it. It sounds kind of scary and awkward. It sounds like knocking on strangers' doors and yelling through the keyhole, "Have you accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior?" It sounds like arguing with friends and family. It sounds like a real pain.

I'm Catholic. I'm proud of being Catholic. I do my Catholic things in my Catholic house throughout my Catholic life. But is that enough?

All Christians are called to "wordless witness" in how they live their lives, writes Paul VI in the apostolic exhortation Evangelii Nuntiandi but this alone, he says, is "insufficient." We must talk about Jesus. We must name him. We must speak of his life, his promises. We must proclaim him. We must be loud enough that a Pharisee would cringe at us.

And yet and Paul VI acknowledges this it's not actually evangelization if we do it so badly that nobody listens. If we "impose" truth on someone's conscience instead of "proposing" it. If we make the mistake of thinking there is one singular way to share Christ with the great variety of personalities that exist in this world.

Dear reader, I am running out of column space, and still I have no answers for you, or for myself. I don't know how to do it well. But I know we have to try. We have to pray. We have to reflect. We have to be patient. We have to be humble. We have to remember it's about him and not about us.

Most of all, when we find ourselves confused and retreating into silence, we must remember Christ's words: "If they keep silent, the stones will cry out."

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

DEVOTIONS, EXPLAINED!

The Seven Churches Pilgrimage is the practice of visiting seven different churches on Holy Thursday, in imitation of the journey of Christ on the eve of his crucifixion, when he asked his disciples to stay with him as he awaited his Passion and death.

Prayer for Holy Week

Dear Lord,

I open my heart to You, offering every day and night to You in sacred surrender. I pray for the grace to accompany You in a special way this Holy Week, joining and offering the trials I encounter on our shared journey to the cross.... and to a victorious hope. Amen.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah bears witness as one who did not lose his faith despite persecution and ridicule. Can you discuss a time when your faith was put to the test?

Second Reading: Paul teaches the Philippians that Jesus was humble and obedient to God even to the point of death by crucifixion. Why do you think humility and obedience are important virtues in following Jesus?

Gospel: In his passion narrative, Luke is the only evangelist to highlight that both Pilate and Herod (Antipas) find Jesus innocent of the charges against him. Is there a friend or co-worker you could help this week who is being treated unfairly?

NEW TO THE PARISH?
SCAN HERE TO BECOME A MEMBER

FROM THE VOCATION DIRECTOR

One of the most beautiful liturgies in the Catholic Church is when a man becomes a priest of Jesus Christ.

At the Mass of Ordination, the men to be ordained kneel in front of the bishop one by one, and they place their folded hands between the hands of the bishop.

Bishop: Do you promise respect and obedience to me and my successors?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfillment.

I consider these last words some of the most profound in the rite of ordination, probably because I work in priestly formation. After many years of intense priestly formation, on the day of ordination, the Church is declaring that God has only just begun the good work he is doing in this priest! This man will leave the cathedral a Catholic priest, but God will continue to work in and through him, forming him more and more into the image of Jesus Christ. And the priest will understand that he will remain in formation throughout his life. As we say to our seminarians: "Ordination is not emancipation from formation."

Finally, the Ordinandi are asked to prostrate themselves on the floor, lying face down on the marble. The congregation is asked to kneel and the Litany of Saints is sung. The Church is asking the intercession of all the saints in heaven, for the moment has come—a man is to be ordained a priest. Immediately afterward, with the people of God still kneeling, the Ordinandi arise from the floor and kneel before the bishop. In silence, the bishop lays his hands on their heads (the essential matter of priestly ordination). Every priest present then processes forward in turn and lays his hands on the heads of the Ordinandi also, a sign of the unity of the presbyterate. The final essential part of the rite of ordination is the prayer of consecration by the bishop (the form of priestly ordination). When the people say "Amen" after this prayer, the man is a priest of Jesus Christ.

~From *To Save a Thousand Souls* by Fr. Brett Brannen

I'm here to help as you seek to discover God's call for your life! If you have questions, need to talk through your discernment, or want to make an appointment, please feel free to contact me.

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