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

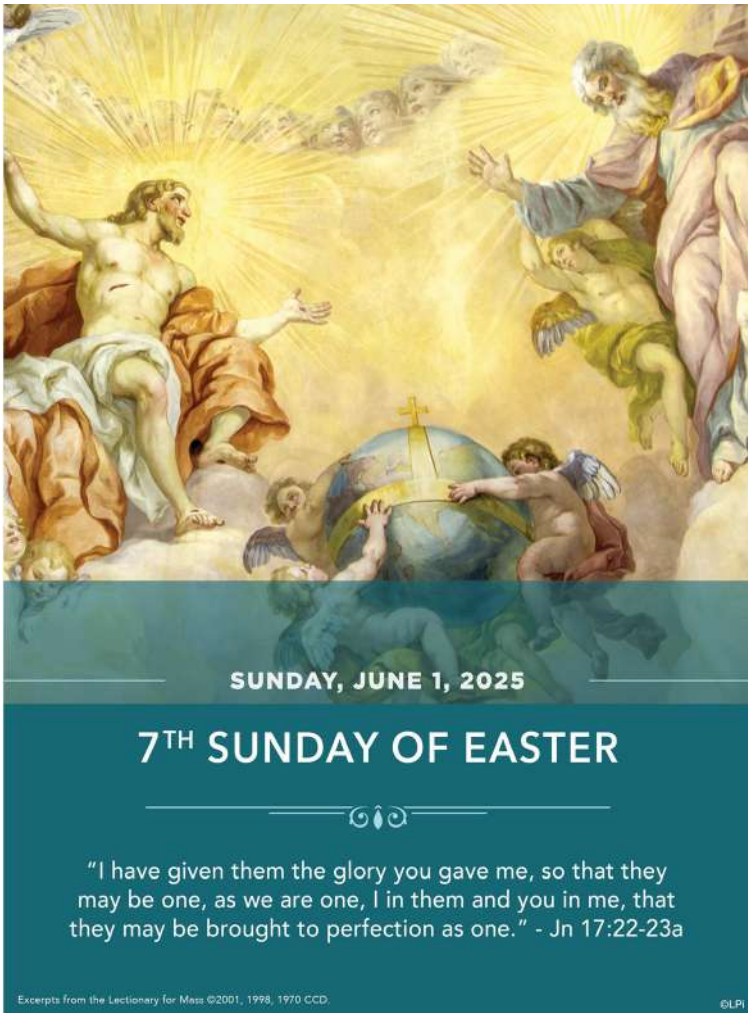
Music Director
Lucille Mascia

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)
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, MAY 31 *(The Visitation of the B.V.M.)*
5:00pm Anthony Sbordoni, Gerald Johnson, Adriene Villacis, Connie McGeady, Chen Yu Sha

SUNDAY, JUNE 1 *(Seventh Sunday of Easter)*
8:00am Tony Severino, Ed Moser and Joseph Scarola
9:00am Madonna che Sciogli I nodi
9:30am The Living & Deceased Members of Our Parish's Rosary Society
11:00am Carmela Moretti & Josephine McManus
12:30pm Lucia Puente, Luis A. Ramirez, Carlota Vargas, Concepcion Garcia Astudillo, Ambrosio Vargas, Caritina Patricio, Javier Martinez *(4° Aniversario),* Almas del Purgatorio de la Familia Melchor Calletano, En Celebracion de Cumpleaños de Ryan Lobo (16)
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, JUNE 2 *(Saints Marcellinus & Peter)*
8:00am Msgr. Celsus Collini
12:00pm John Thu Pham

TUESDAY, JUNE 3 *(Saint Charles Lwanga)*
8:00am Saul Salomon Mendoza
12:00pm Joseph Thinh Pham

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4
8:00am Members of the Mother's Prayer Group and their Families
12:00pm Maria Brajkovic

THURSDAY, JUNE 5 *(Saint Boniface)*
8:00am Gaspare Barretta
12:00pm Giuseppe & Raffaela D'Angelo

FRIDAY, JUNE 6 *(Saint Norbert)*
8:00pm Purgatorial Society
12:00pm Neil McKenzie
7:30pm Jose Flavio Santos & Luisa Herminia Dume

SATURDAY, JUNE 7
8:00am Madonna Immordino Faraci
5:00pm Gerald Johnson, Cecilia Sulat

PENTECOST SUNDAY, JUNE 8
8:00am Agnes Gill
9:00am Gino & Maria Augusto
9:30am Intentions of the Jornada Group
11:00am Gina Mejia
12:30pm Zoraida De la Puente Vda. De Camacho, Ricarda Delfina Rivas Perez, Caritina Patricio, Ines Sierra Huerta, Concepcion Garcia Astudillo, Miguel Vicente Tenecela,
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

MEMORIAL GIFTS THIS WEEK

The Altar Candles are being offered for ***Pina, Nina, Giovanna and Gaspare Barretta,*** *by Ida Barretta*

The Sanctuary Lamp is being offered in honor of ***Ryan Lobo's Birthday,*** *by his family*

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection taken after communion on **June 1, 2025 for the Catholic Communications.** Thank you for your generosity.

There is also another second collection after communion on **June 8, 2025 for parish school children**. Thank you for your contributions.

2025 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

We invite each family to consider making a tax-deductible gift today. Our goal is to receive an offering from every family, no matter the amount, so that together we can reach our goal! **As of May 27, 2025, we have 93 donors who have pledged $33,374 from which $26,251 has been received.**

GOOD SHEPHERDS OF BETHLEHEM

Our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land need our support now more than ever. Representatives of the Good Shepherds of Bethlehem will be at our parish on **May 31st and June 1st** to sell olive wood handicrafts, beautifully made by Christian artisans from Bethlehem. Purchasing these olive wood products is a tangible way to support the Christian families in the Holy Land, who depend on this craftsmanship for their survival, especially during these challenging times. Join us in showing solidarity and support for our fellow Christians by attending this sale. Your generosity will make a significant difference in their lives.

VOTIVE OFFERINGS AND MEMORIALS

Mass Intentions now through June 30	$15
Mass Intentions starting July 1	$20
Purgatorial Mass with Booklet	$20
Purgatorial Mass with Card	$15
Weekly Altar Flowers:	$100.00
Weekly Altar Bread and Wine:	$40.00
Weekly Sanctuary Lamp:	$30.00
Weekly Altar Candles:	$20.00

The Tree of Life: Please visit the parish office.
Gift categories include:

Silver Leaf:	$ 500.00
Gold Leaf:	$1,000.00
Gold Rock at Base of Tree:	$2,500.00

GROUPS AND SOCIETIES AT OUR PARISH INSTITUTE

Sunday, June 1

9:00am—1:00pm	Rosary Society	*Lourdes A/B*
9:30am—10:30am	Grupo de Amistad #14	*Nazareth*
9:30am—11:00am	Grupo de Amistad #5	*Assumption*
10:00am—11:00am	Grupo de Amistad #9	*Balcony*
10:00am—12:30pm	Cursillo	*Guadalupe A/B*
1:00pm—7:00pm	CYO	*Gym*

Monday, June 2

7:00am—5:00pm	TYWLS	Gym
6:00pm—9:00pm	CYO	*Gym*
6:00pm—8:30pm	Deacons Meeting	Rectory
7:00pm—9:30pm	Coro Guadalupano	*Lourdes A/B*

Tuesday, June 3

7:00am—4:00pm	TYWLS	*Gym*
5:30pm—7:00pm	Academia Mariachi	*Balcony*
6:00pm—9:00pm	CYO	*Gym*
6:00pm—9:00pm	Marriage Encounter	*Guadalupe A/B+ Fatima*
7:00pm—9:00pm	Coro #1	*Nazareth*
7:30pm—8:30pm	Clase de Guitarra	*Lourdes A/B*

Wednesday, June 4

7:00am—4:00pm	TYWLS	*Gym*
6:00pm—9:00pm	CYO	*Gym*
7:00pm—9:00pm	Consagracion OLMC	*Lourdes A/B*

Thursday, June 5

10:00am—11:30am	Legion of Mary	*Guadalupe B*
6:00pm—9:00pm	CYO	*Gym*

Friday, June 6

7:00am—4:00pm	TYWLS	*Gym*
4:30pm—12:00am	Grupo de Mariachi	Gym
6:00pm—9:00pm	OLMC Youth Group	*Guadalupe A*
6:30pm—9:00pm	Practica de Instrumentos	*Lourdes A/B*
7:00pm—9:00pm	Reunion de Cursillo	Guadalupe B

Saturday, June 7

9:00am—12:30pm	AA Meeting	*Guadalupe A/B*
10:00am—12:00pm	Spanish Children's Choir	*Assumption*
5:00pm—7:00pm	Bilingual Choir Practice	*Nazareth*
7:00pm—8:00am	Jornada Lock-In	All Rooms

WEEKLY MASS OFFERINGS

REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MAY 17 & 18

Last Sunday: $4,307
Same Week Last Year: $5,618

Faith Direct
April 2025: $4,023 April 2024: $4,870

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**
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 Martes—6:00pm—Instituto	**Ceremonia de Bautismo 12:00pm—Iglesia de Arriba**
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

FAITH DIRECT

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.

RECTORY CLOSING

The parish office will be closed on Thursday, June 19, 2025 for Juneteenth. There will be only one Mass in English celebrated in the main church at 9:00am. The office will reopen on Friday, June 20, 2025 at 9:00am and the regular Mass Schedule will resume.

ROSARY SOCIETY MONTHLY MEETING

There will be a Rosary Society meeting today, 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

June 1, 2025

Dear Parish Family,

As we enter the month of June, traditionally dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we are invited to contemplate the love that burns within the heart of Christ—a love that is tender, faithful, and utterly self-giving. It is from that heart that Jesus prayed His most profound prayer, which we hear in today's Gospel: *"That they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you."* (John 17:21)

This unity Christ desires for us is not mere harmony—it is communion. It reflects the very unity of the Blessed Trinity: distinct, yet one in love. The other readings reinforce this call. In Acts, Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, sees the glory of God and forgives even as he dies—showing unity with Christ not just in belief, but in love (cf. Acts 7:55-60). In Revelation, the Church's cry, *"Come, Lord Jesus,"* resounds from every heart, joined across heaven and earth in shared longing and hope (cf. Revelation 22:20).

These readings do not merely describe individual holiness—they reveal the shape of the Church when she is truly alive in Christ. St. Stephen's vision and martyrdom testify to a Church that is bold, forgiving, and filled with the Spirit. Revelation shows a Church that keeps her eyes fixed on eternity, drawing others by her radiant hope. And Jesus' prayer in John points to the ultimate fruit of unity: *"that the world may believe"* (John 17:21). When we are united—across languages, backgrounds, and personal preferences—our faith becomes more credible, attractive, and powerful. In a world weary of division, suspicion, and noise, a Church that lives in harmony becomes a sign of something greater: the peace of Christ.

I see this unity unfolding here in our parish. We are a microcosm of the universal Church, with eight Sunday Masses in five different languages and forty-two active groups and ministries—each rich in heritage, yet all bound together in one faith, one baptism, and one Eucharist. Having served in Rome for many years, I saw the Church's vastness; but now, as your pastor, I see her beauty right here—at the grassroots, in every culture, every ministry, every act of faith. This is a great gift, but also a shared task and responsibility.

True unity, dear brothers and sisters, begins with fidelity—to Christ, to the Church's teachings, to the Holy Father and our bishops. It extends to how we support the Church's mission and how we live out our baptismal identity, together. Nevertheless, it also requires concrete expressions of love in daily parish life:

- Offering others a spirit of welcome, especially those who are new or on the margins.
- Making room in the pews, extending a warm greeting or a friendly smile.
- Helping to keep our church and facilities secure, clean and orderly.
- Volunteering in ministries and activities that keep our parish vibrant.
- Encouraging and mentoring young people to serve and lead in the Church.
- Offering a helping hand to our priests and staff when needed.

Showing appreciation to those who give so much to serve us.

These acts flow from the Heart of Christ. As an old adage says, *"what belongs to everyone risks being neglected by all."* Yet, as stewards of God's house, each of us has a role to play in preserving the dignity, safety, and sanctity of our shared sacred spaces—a role that flows directly from our ecclesial unity. During the liturgy, our unity becomes especially visible. Let us participate actively by praying, singing, and responding with one heart and voice. Let us maintain a spirit of reverence: practicing silence and prayerfulness, avoiding unnecessary movement, dressing modestly, attending to personal hygiene, etc. These are not burdens—they are gifts we offer to God and one another in love.

Dear friends, the Sacred Heart of Jesus beats with love for each of us and invites us to beat in unison with Him—and with each other. Let us be known not only for our diversity but for our charity. Not only for how we worship, but for how we serve. Let us live the prayer of Christ for unity, not as a distant dream, but as a concrete reality in our parish.

May our parish be a true reflection of the Heart of Jesus—welcoming, merciful, faithful, and one.

In the love of Christ,

Msgr. Cuong M. Pham

DEL CORAZON DEL PASTOR

1 de Junio, 2025

Querida familia parroquial,

Al comenzar el mes de junio, mes dedicado al Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, nuestro corazón se vuelve naturalmente hacia ese amor tierno, fiel y entregado que brota del corazón de Cristo. Es un amor que no se queda en palabras, sino que se muestra con hechos: en la cruz, en la Eucaristía, y también en cada acto de compasión y unidad. En el Evangelio de hoy, escuchamos la oración más íntima de Jesús: *"Que todos sean uno, como tú, Padre, estás en mí y yo en ti"* (Jn 17,21).

Esa unidad que Jesús anhela para nosotros no es solo "llevarse bien" o evitar conflictos—es algo mucho más profundo: es comunión. Es el tipo de unión que nace del amor verdadero, como el que se vive en una familia donde, a pesar de las diferencias, todos se cuidan, se respetan y se apoyan. Esta comunión refleja la unidad perfecta de la Santísima Trinidad: tres personas distintas, pero un solo Dios, unidos por el lazo eterno del amor. Así también debemos vivir nosotros como Iglesia: distintos en culturas, lenguas y tradiciones, pero unidos por la misma fe, el mismo bautismo y el mismo amor a Cristo. Las lecturas de este domingo lo confirman con fuerza. San Esteban, lleno del Espíritu Santo, alza los ojos al cielo y ve la gloria de Dios, y aun en medio del sufrimiento, perdona a sus agresores—un testimonio vivo de unidad con Cristo, no solo en creencias, sino en el amor que perdona y entrega (cfr. Hch 7,55-60). En el Apocalipsis, el clamor de la Iglesia—*"¡Ven, Señor Jesús!"*—no nace de un solo corazón, sino de miles que se unen, desde la tierra hasta el cielo, en una misma esperanza (cfr. Ap 22,20).

Esto no es teoría. Así es como se ve la Iglesia cuando está viva. San Esteban nos muestra una fe valiente, que ama incluso en el dolor. El Apocalipsis nos recuerda que no estamos solos: somos un pueblo que camina con los ojos en el cielo. Y el Evangelio nos revela el deseo más profundo del corazón de Cristo: que estemos unidos, para que el mundo crea.

Esa unidad comienza aquí. En nuestra parroquia ya vemos signos hermosos de esa comunión: celebramos ocho Misas dominicales en cinco idiomas distintos; tenemos cuarenta y dos ministerios y grupos activos; y cada cultura aporta su riqueza, su fe, su estilo de rezar y servir. Es una bendición inmensa. Yo, que vi la grandeza de la Iglesia en Roma, les digo: la belleza de la Iglesia también se ve aquí, en nuestras bancas, en nuestras familias, en los que sirven con humildad y alegría. Pero esta unidad no se da sola; es un regalo y una tarea compartida.

La unidad se construye con fidelidad: a Cristo, a las enseñanzas de la Iglesia, al Papa y a nuestros obispos. Pero también se expresa en cosas muy concretas del día a día parroquial:

- Recibir con cariño a quien llega por primera vez, o se siente solo.
  - Hacer espacio en la banca, saludar con una sonrisa.
  - Cuidar nuestra iglesia como casa de todos: limpia, segura y digna.
  - Participar como voluntarios en ministerios y actividades.
  - Animar a nuestros jóvenes a amar y servir a la Iglesia.
  - Ofrecer ayuda a los sacerdotes y al equipo parroquial cuando se necesite.
  - Agradecer a quienes dan tanto por nuestra comunidad.

Estas acciones nacen del Corazón de Cristo. Hay un dicho muy sabio: *"Lo que es de todos, nadie lo cuida."* Pero nosotros sabemos que la Iglesia es nuestra familia. Y en una familia todos ayudan, todos se cuidan, todos participan. Por eso, durante la Misa, mostremos nuestro amor por Dios y por los demás con reverencia: cantando, rezando juntos, guardando silencio cuando corresponde, vistiendo con modestia y cuidando nuestra presencia. No lo hacemos por obligación, sino por amor.

Queridos hermanos, el Corazón de Jesús late por cada uno de nosotros. Y nos llama a latir al unísono: con Él y entre nosotros. Que no se nos conozca solo por nuestra diversidad cultural, sino por nuestro amor. Que no se nos admire solo por cómo celebramos, sino por cómo servimos. Vivamos esa oración de Jesús por la unidad, no como un sueño lejano, sino como una realidad concreta en nuestra parroquia.

Que el Sagrado Corazón de Jesús nos haga una comunidad viva, acogedora, alegre, fiel y unida.

Con todo mi cariño en 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: **David Paul, Richie Colombo, Angel Garcia & Max Borilla.**

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, June 6, 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.

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: **Fructuoso Ponce, Floriberto Ponce, Lorrain Loja Cono, Richard McGrade, Gaetano Todaro, Rafaela Altagracia Lugo Cruz, Louella Coligado, Cresencia Bondoc, Angelita Cruz, Maria (Ecuador), Miguelina Acevedo, Margarita Acevedo—Dostall, Anna Danyluk, & John Bodnar, Carlos Caceda, Adil Hernandez, Moises Yañez, Tomasa Garcia, Crystal Godon, Glorya Garma, Michael Reddington, Sr., Agnes Gil.**

CORONILLA CANTADA
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

Estan todos invitados a la coronilla cada mes en las fechas anunciadas arriba. Los esperamos!

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

SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL

The Diocese of Brooklyn has reached an agreement with the New York State Attorney General to enhance child safety measures. This agreement requires updated training for all clergy, employees, and volunteers who work with children.
The new training is designed to provide valuable information to help ensure the safety of children and adults during interactions.

If you are working with children in any capacity, please log in to your account at virtus.org and complete any outstanding training items.

For questions or if you need help accessing your account please call the parish office: 718.278.1834.

ESPACIOS SEGUROS PARA TODOS

La Diócesis de Brooklyn ha llegado a un acuerdo con la Fiscal General del Estado de Nueva York para mejorar las medidas de protección infantil. Este acuerdo requiere capacitación actualizada para todo el clero, empleados y voluntarios que trabajen con niños.
La nueva capacitación está diseñada para proporcionar información valiosa que ayude a garantizar la seguridad de los niños y adultos durante sus interacciones.
Si usted trabaja con niños en cualquier capacidad, por favor inicie sesión en su cuenta en virtus.org y complete cualquier capacitación pendiente.

Si tiene alguna pregunta o necesita ayuda para entrar a su cuenta por favor llame a la oficina parroquial: 718.278.1834.

GAINING PEACE THROUGH PRAYER— A MESSAGE FROM THE VOCATION DIRECTOR

Is God calling me to be a priest? How can I know for sure? What's the best way to make a decision like this?

As you contemplate what to do with your life, be confident that God has a specific plan for you, and that you can discover it through prayer. This article provides some practical ideas for praying about your vocation.

What is prayer in the first place? If you've taken your faith seriously, you know that praying isn't as simple as saying a couple of Our Fathers and Hail Marys in a church pew. While that is a good beginning, prayer requires more than just reciting words. Authentic prayer goes much deeper. As St. John Vianney wrote in his Little Catechism, "Prayer is nothing else than union with God. In this intimate union, God and the soul are like two pieces of wax molded into one."

In a very real way, prayer helps us to achieve union with God, which is the vocation of all Christians. No matter which vocation God has in mind for you, it is essential that you learn to pray well.

One of the most important ways to pray is spending time with Jesus in the Eucharist. The Church teaches us that the Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life" (CCC 1324). Because Christ is present completely in the Eucharist, it makes sense that we should want to be where He is physically present. Here are some practical tips on how to begin conversing with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, with a special emphasis on discerning a priestly vocation.

Read inspiring Scripture passages
If you want to really know what Jesus wants, it is necessary to know what He said and did as recorded in the Bible. Scriptures can spark a great conversation between you and the Lord. Here are a few suggested passages to get started:

Isaiah 6:1-9 The angel calls Isaiah even though he is unworthy
Matthew 19: 16-30 Jesus' encounter with the rich young man
Matthew 9: 35-38 The harvest is rich but the laborers are few
John 1:35-51 The calling of the first disciples
Luke 14:25-33 Following Christ no matter what the cost
Jeremiah 1:4-10 "Say not 'I am too young.'"

Contemplate life changes
Everyone, no matter how holy, can always live more perfectly. As you pray before Our Lord in the Eucharist, think about the things in your life which may be holding you back from making commitments to God. Even things like your choice of music and movies can be detrimental to serious discernment and living an authentic Christian life. Start with the little things – but don't be afraid to tackle the big ones!

Talk to God about your friends and family
If you make the decision to begin studying for the priesthood, your parents may not understand. Your friends may be skeptical. And sometimes it can be tough to put space between you and your female friends. Ask God for guidance in these relationships. Remember that Jesus himself had family and friends who didn't always understand him; He can understand what you are going through.

Confront your fears and ask for courage
For a healthy single man, considering a celibate life without the comforts of a wife and family is difficult, since our nature draws us toward family life. Many men are afraid seminary will be too challenging or that public speaking will prove too difficult. Speak to God about these concerns, then ask for courage and peace to overcome them. If you confront your fears now, with God's help, your discernment will be much less complicated.

Ask God to show you your strengths
If God is calling you to the priesthood, He will have given you certain qualities that will make you a good priest. Spend some time examining your personal gifts, then imagine how you can use them to help others as a priest. You may discover you have a lot to contribute to the Church!

In the end, spending time with Jesus in prayer should be like a conversation with Him – just as if you were spending time with a good friend. Speak to Jesus from your heart and then listen. You're likely not going to hear anything with your ears. Instead, "hearing" results in an increase in understanding, acceptance, and willingness to follow God's path for your life. Your prayer should bring you a peacefulness about the path forward.

Prayer is the surest way to know what God wants us to do with our lives – and to gain the grace and courage to do it!

Rev. Chris Bethge
Vocation Director of the Diocese of Brooklyn

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE IN THE PARISH OFFICE!

APLICACIONES DISPONIBLES EN LA OFICINA PARROQUIAL!

REGISTER YOUR CHILDREN FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES NOW!

1 Child- $75

2 Children- $120

3 or more children (same parents)- $160

Must bring certificates of prior sacraments received and birth certificate if this is their first time being registered at our religious education program.

REGISTRE A SUS NIÑOS PARA CLASES DE EDUCACION RELIGIOSA AHORA!

1 Niño- $75

2 Niños- $120

3 o mas Niños (mismos padres)- $160

Debe traer los certificados de cualquier sacramento ya recibido y el acta de nacimiento si esta es la primera vez registrando en nuestra parroquia para el programa.

WHAT IS LECTIO DIVINA AND HOW IS IT ASSOCIATED WITH THE BENEDICTINE MONASTIC TRADITION, WHOSE FOUNDER, ST. BENEDICT, WE HONOR ON JULY 11?

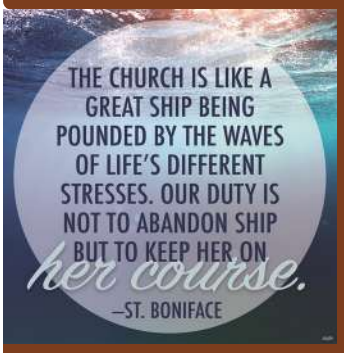
Benedict desired his monks to live in community, praying the Liturgy of the Hours together, contemplating sacred texts, and doing manual labor. The monks developed a technique to facilitate a spiritual and devotional reading of the Bible known as Lectio Divina, the holy reading of a text. This method encourages the reader to hear the biblical text with an open heart and focus on whatever God wants to highlight and then apply it to daily life.

There are variations on Lectio Divina, but essentially, the technique consists of a three-step process of reflection. When the reflection is done with a group, the responses are shared by all the participants. Once the text is selected, it is read meditatively, and the following are then explored: a word or phrase that attracts you; how and where the content of this reading touches your life today; what you believe that God wants you to do during this coming week (month, year, lifetime).

Thanks to Benedict, the Christian community has been gifted with this special way of entering into the biblical text. This week, use the Lectio Divina process on one of the readings for the coming Sunday and make a note of the life connections you are making. How is this reflection on the biblical text drawing you closer to God and others?

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THAT THE WORLD MAY BELLEV



In today's Gospel, Jesus prays for me. And for you. And for all the people who woke up this morning and headed to Mass because, while it's true that God is everywhere, the Body and Blood of Jesus is only found in one place.

I love today's Gospel because, in it, Jesus prays for me. And you. And the guy sitting next to you at Mass. And the priest, and the altar server, and all the people in all the churches in all the towns in all the world who woke up this morning and headed to Mass because, while it's true that God is everywhere, the Body and Blood of Jesus is only found in one place.

And he prays for the barista who will sell you your coffee later today and see your crucifix and hear you say, "God bless," and think, "That's a weird necklace, and I don't believe in God," but who will one day, at her lowest point, wonder if anyone ever truly loved her, and remember the sight of that broken and bloodied Corpus.

Today, Jesus prays for the person you passed on the way into the parking lot this morning, the one who doesn't go to Mass anymore but who always walks his dog on this street, on this morning, for reasons he can't explain.

He prays for your great-great grandparents and your great-great grandchildren.

"*Those who will believe in me through their word.*" That's me. That's you. That's us. We're the ones who believe through the word of the Apostles, who bore witness to the life and death and Resurrection of the God-Man, Jesus Christ, and whose testimony to that life is an eternal flame illuminating the understanding of every human being who will ever say, "I believe."

But if we listen to what Jesus says today, we must understand: it's not just the Apostles job, and it's not done. It's not a book that is closed. It's a mission that is alive and ongoing, and it's as much ours as it was theirs: that the world may believe that you sent me.

-Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

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

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:

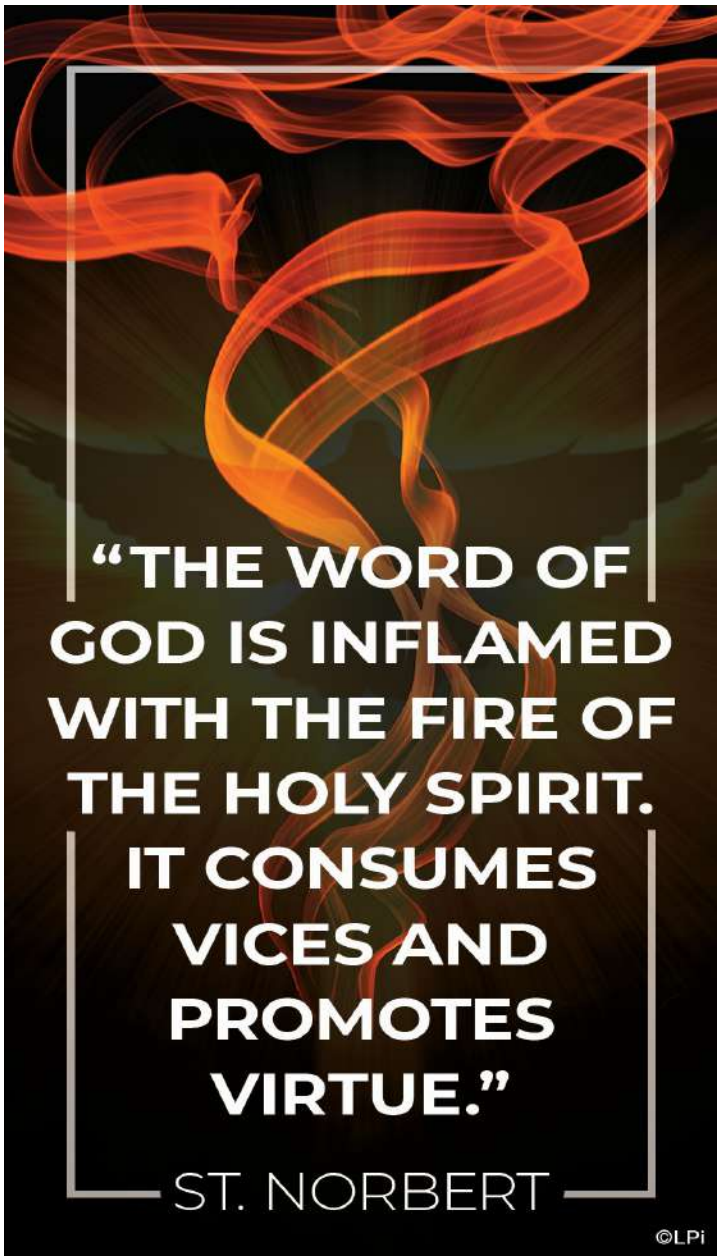
[ ] Nueva Registración *[ ] Cambio de dirección*

[ ] Prefiero Sobres *[ ] Donaciones en línea*

MY PEACE I GIVE TO YOU

The famous 20th century St. Padre Pio said once that he would wait outside the gates of heaven until the people in his life had entered. I'm not sure that I, or frankly many people I know, would say that and mean it. Yet that is precisely the kind of attitude we see in Jesus as he prays for us in the Gospel today. Having celebrated the Ascension of the Lord just a few days ago, we now hear the Son of God at the Last Supper pray to his Father "that they may be brought to perfection as one" (John 17:23). What does this mean for us?

I'd wager that we are not surprised that Jesus wants to make us perfect that is, happy, whole, and healed. The shocker is that he desires this for us collectively and not just individually. Perfection is a team sport. We need each other to be perfect. Jesus is like a mother longing for her adult children to learn how to be in loving support of one another. He wants the perfection of his disciples to be not some individualistic plan of moral uprightness, but a loving communion of brothers and sisters.

Let's apply this practically. Do I see my participation at Mass as something I do merely for my own peace and edification, or as something I do with and for the people around me? Do I see my ongoing need for forgiveness as something that simply makes me feel better, or as a task that heals those around me, too? Is my dearest hope to individually get to heaven when I die, or is it to be part of the great procession of souls, together marching towards the heavenly Jerusalem? Do I want to be in heaven with people i currently find difficult? How would my life change if I did?

-Father John Muir