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, MAY 10
(Saints John of Avila & Damien de Veuster)
5:00pm Mercedes Beck, Saul Salomon Mendoza, Maria Anna Bucich, Hilda Alicia Taveras, Zenaida & Augusto Santos *(Living—Birthday)*

SUNDAY, MAY 11 *(Fourth Sunday of Easter)*

MONDAY, MAY 12 *(Saints Nereus, Achilleus & Pancras)*
8:00am Maria Acayan *(10th Anniversary)*
12:00pm Joseph Mascia *(21st Anniversary)*

TUESDAY, MAY 13 *(Our Lady of Fatima)*
8:00am Giuseppe & Bernarda DiLorenzo
12:00pm Jack & Angela O'Connor

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14 *(Saint Matthias)*
8:00am Francisco Jose Forero
12:00pm Leonard Burton

THURSDAY, MAY 15 *(Saint Isidore)*
8:00am Alicia & Roberto Vazquez
12:00pm Joseph Albanese

FRIDAY, MAY 16
8:00pm Victor Vazquez Hernandez *(5th Anniversary)*
12:00pm Lucy Mascia (20th Anniversary) & Pietro Mascia

SATURDAY, MAY 17
8:00am In Shik Min *(Death Anniversary)*
5:00pm Victor Vazquez Hernandez *(5th Anniversary),* For the Victims of the Vancouver Tragedy, Bernardina & Humberto Alcocer, Gerald Johnson

SUNDAY, MAY 18 *(Fifth Sunday of Easter)*
8:00am Pierre Elie
9:00am Francesco Salamone
9:30am Rosario Ortega *(11 Aniversario)*
11:00am Donald Olskey & Karen O'Sullivan
12:30pm Miguel Vivar, Agustina Rojas, Ines Sierra, Ricarda Delfina Rivas Perez, Hilda Diaz *(Cathy)*, Luis Alberto Ramirez, Feliciano Verdejo, Concepcion Garcia Astudillo, Caritina Patricio, Rosario Ortega Isidoro *(11 Aniversario),* Por las almas en el Purgatorio de la Familia Melchor Aguilar, Cosme Juan Rivera, Esperanza Ramos Lopez, Rosa Alastenia Ruiz *(3 Años),* Por el bienestar de Maria Antonia
3:00pm For the People of the Parish

MEMORIAL GIFTS THIS WEEK

The Altar Candles are being offered for ***Sabbia Carullo & Margherita Petruso****, by Tony & Nina Carullo and Family*

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

The Altar Bread & Wine are being offered for ***Mercedes Beck****, by Nora Abreu*

RECTORY CLOSING

The parish office will be closed on Monday, May 26, 2025 for Memorial Day. There will be only one Mass in English celebrated in the main Church at 9:00am. The office will reopen on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at 9:00am and the regular Mass Schedule will resume.

UPCOMING SECOND COLLECTION

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

May 18, 2025— Summer Mission Appeal

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.

GROUPS AND SOCIETIES AT OUR PARISH INSTITUTE

Sunday, May 11

8:00am—11:30am	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—12:30pm	Cursillo	*Guadalupe A*
10:00am—1:00pm	Czech Community	*Guadalupe B*
2:00pm—3:00pm	Grupo de Amistad #14	*Fatima*

Monday, May 12

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

Tuesday, May 13

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, May 14

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

Thursday, May 15

7:00am—5:00pm	TYWLS	*Gym*
10:00am—11:30am	Legion of Mary	*Guadalupe B*
5:30pm—7:30pm	Religious Education	*All Rooms*
7:30pm—9:00pm	CYO	*Gym*

Friday, May 16

7:00am—4:00pm	TYWLS	*Gym*
5:00pm—10:00pm	CYO	*Gym*
6:30pm—9:00pm	OLMC Youth Group	*Guadalupe A/B*
6:30pm—9:00pm	Practica de Instrumentos	*Lourdes A/B*

Saturday, May 17

9:00am—9:00pm	Jornada Olympics	*Gym*
9:00am—12:30pm	AA Meeting	*Guadalupe A/B*
10:00am—1:00pm	Saturday Lessons in Faith	*Lourdes A/B*
10:00am—12:00pm	Spanish Children's Choir	*Fatima*
5:00pm—9:00pm	Adult Sewing Group	*Lourdes A/B*
5:00pm—7:00pm	Bilingual Choir Practice	*Nazareth*

MASS ATTENDANCE RECORD

Weekend of April 26-27	Number of Attendees
5:00pm English Vigil	172
8:00am English	123
9:00am Italian	31
9:30am Bilingual	156
10:00am Czech	27
11:00am English	220
12:30pm Spanish	397
3:00pm Vietnamese	71

WEEKLY MASS OFFERINGS

REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MAY 3 & 4

Last Sunday: $6,071
Same Week Last Year: $5,982

(Does not include Faith Direct)

Maintenance: $2,069

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

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

May 11, 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I write to you from the heart of the Church, here in Rome, where I have the privilege of witnessing a sacred and historic moment. These are holy, expectant days. The Eternal City is alive with reverence and charged anticipation as pilgrims, clergy, and cardinals gather for the papal conclave, discerning the next successor of St. Peter.

Everywhere I go, I see the faces of pilgrims from every corner of the earth—young and old, clergy and laity, journalists and seekers, believers and the simply curious—all drawn here by something far greater than any one of us. It brings to mind today's second reading from Revelation: *"a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue, standing before the throne and before the Lamb"* (Rev 7:9). I see this multitude now—not clothed in white robes, but wrapped in flags, scarves, and rosaries—gathered in St. Peter's Square as if it were one vast sanctuary under the open sky.

There is a solemn beauty in this moment. The world watches and waits for the white smoke, the tolling bells, and those joyful words: *Habemus Papam!—We have a Pope*! What a miracle that, in our fractured and noisy world, this moment still captures global attention—not because of spectacle, but because of mystery. The cardinals are not electing a politician; they are listening for the voice of the Holy Spirit, who has already chosen the one to shepherd Christ's flock. *"My sheep hear my voice,"* Jesus says in today's Gospel. *"I know them, and they follow me."* (Jn 10:27-30). The next pope will not be the successor of Francis, but of Peter. His style will be his own, but his mission remains the same: to confirm us in faith, to guide the Church, and to reflect Christ, the Good Shepherd.

I remember vividly the last time I was here. The world had scarcely known Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio before he stepped onto the balcony and, with a simple *"Buona sera,"* touched the hearts of millions. That evening, the square was electric with something more than emotion—it was charged with grace. I pray I may once again be present when the new Holy Father emerges. It is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and yet timeless—for every pope is chosen not merely for a moment, but for a mission that never changes.

Fittingly, this Fourth Sunday of Easter is also the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. From the very place where a new pope is being chosen, we are reminded that the Lord still calls men and women to serve—through priesthood, diaconate, religious life, and holy marriage. Let us pray that many may respond with courage, and that our parish may be fertile ground where vocations are heard and nurtured.

On this Mother's Day, we also give thanks for the first vocation most of us ever encountered: the faithful, sacrificial love of our mothers. Whether they are still with us or have gone before us, we honor all mothers—those by birth and those by spiritual motherhood—whose witness teaches us to love, to serve, and to say yes in faith. Like Mary, Mother of the Church, may they continue to guide and inspire us.

Please continue to pray for the conclave, for the one who will emerge as Holy Father, and for the Church in this time of great need and great hope. No matter what lies ahead, one thing is certain: the Lord has not—and will not—abandon His Church. He has never failed to provide shepherds for His flock.

From the Vatican, I send you my prayers and blessings. I look forward to returning home soon, renewed by this grace-filled experience and full of hope for the road ahead.

In Christ, our Good Shepherd,

Msgr. Cuong M. Pham

DEL CORAZON DEL PASTOR

11 de Mayo, 2025

Queridos hermanos en Cristo,

Les escribo desde el corazón de la Iglesia, aquí en Roma, donde tengo el privilegio de vivir un momento sagrado e histórico. Son días llenos de esperanza. La Ciudad Eterna está viva con un profundo espíritu de oración y una gran expectativa, mientras peregrinos, sacerdotes, religiosos y cardenales se reúnen para el cónclave papal, en busca del próximo sucesor de San Pedro.

A cada paso, encuentro rostros venidos de todas partes del mundo: jóvenes y mayores, laicos y consagrados, periodistas, creyentes y curiosos. Todos han llegado atraídos por algo mucho más grande que nosotros mismos. Me viene a la mente la segunda lectura del Apocalipsis: *"una multitud inmensa, imposible de contar, de toda nación, raza, pueblo y lengua, de pie delante del trono y del Cordero"* (Ap 7,9). Esa imagen se hace realidad aquí mismo: no vestidos con túnicas blancas, sino con banderas, bufandas y rosarios, reunidos en la Plaza de San Pedro como si fuera un inmenso santuario bajo el cielo.

Hay una belleza solemne en este momento. El mundo observa y espera el humo blanco, el repique de las campanas y esas palabras que llenan de gozo el corazón: *¡Habemus Papam! — ¡Tenemos Papa!* Qué maravilla que, en medio de un mundo dividido y ruidoso, este gesto aún conmueva al planeta entero—no por espectáculo, sino por misterio. Los cardenales no eligen a un político; escuchan al Espíritu Santo, que ya ha escogido al pastor para el rebaño de Cristo. Como dice Jesús: *"Mis ovejas escuchan mi voz; yo las conozco y ellas me siguen"* (Jn 10,27). El nuevo Papa no es sucesor de Francisco, sino de Pedro. Tendrá su propio estilo, pero su misión será la misma: confirmarnos en la fe, guiar a la Iglesia y reflejar a Cristo, el Buen Pastor.

Recuerdo como si fuera ayer la última vez que estuve aquí. El mundo apenas conocía al Cardenal Jorge Mario Bergoglio cuando salió al balcón y, con un sencillo *"Buona sera"*, conquistó millones de corazones. Aquella noche, la plaza no sólo estaba cargada de emoción, sino de gracia. Pido a Dios poder estar presente otra vez cuando salga el nuevo Santo Padre. Es una experiencia única, y al mismo tiempo eterna, porque cada Papa es elegido no solo para un momento, sino para una misión que no cambia.

Providencialmente, este Cuarto Domingo de Pascua celebramos también la Jornada Mundial de Oración por las Vocaciones. Desde aquí, recordamos que el Señor sigue llamando a hombres y mujeres a servir: como sacerdotes, diáconos, consagrados y esposos santos. Pidamos al Señor que muchos respondan con alegría, y que nuestra parroquia sea tierra fértil donde florezcan las vocaciones.

Hoy celebramos también el Día de las Madres, y damos gracias por esa primera vocación que muchos conocimos: el amor fiel y generoso de nuestras madres. Estén con nosotros o hayan partido, las honramos—biológicas o espirituales—por enseñarnos a amar, servir y decir "sí" con fe. Como María, Madre de la Iglesia, que sigan guiándonos e inspirándonos.

Sigan orando por el cónclave, por quien será elegido como Santo Padre y por toda la Iglesia en este tiempo de esperanza. Pase lo que pase, algo es seguro: el Señor no ha abandonado—ni abandonará jamás—su Iglesia. Siempre nos ha dado buenos pastores.

Desde el Vaticano, les envío mi oración y bendición. Espero regresar pronto, renovado por esta experiencia llena de gracia y con esperanza para lo que viene.

En Cristo, nuestro Buen Pastor,

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: **Richie Colombo & Angel Garcia.**

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.

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.**

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

✿ OUR LADY'S MONTH BEGINS! ✿

This beautiful month of May, we turn our hearts to Mary, the Mother of God, who holds a unique and irreplaceable place in the story of our salvation. From the earliest days of the Church, Christians have looked to Mary with love and trust, honoring her as Mother, Virgin, Protector, and Intercessor.

In a world full of challenges and conflicting ideas, turning to Mary brings peace to our hearts. Our late Holy Father, Pope Francis, was a shining example of Marian devotion. He began every important journey and entrusted every mission of his papacy to the protection of the Blessed Virgin. He often visited the image of *Salus Populi Romani* in Rome to pray, asking Mary to guard and guide the Church and all humanity under her tender care.

This May, let us follow the example of the saints, the early Christians, and Pope Francis, uniting our voices in prayer: "*We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.*"

✿ ¡COMIENZA EL MES DE MARÍA! ✿

Este hermoso mes de mayo, volvemos nuestro corazón a María, la Madre de Dios, quien ocupa un lugar único e irreemplazable en la historia de nuestra salvación. Desde los primeros siglos de la Iglesia, los cristianos han mirado a María con amor y confianza, honrándola como Madre, Virgen, Protectora e Intercesora.

En medio de los desafíos y las confusiones de nuestro tiempo, acudir a María nos llena de paz. Nuestro querido Papa Francisco fue un ejemplo luminoso de amor y devoción a la Virgen María. Desde el inicio de su pontificado, encomendaba cada viaje y cada misión importante a la protección maternal de Nuestra Señora. Frecuentemente acudía a rezar ante la imagen de ***Salus Populi Romani*** en Roma, pidiendo a la Virgen que cuidara de la Iglesia y de toda la humanidad bajo su amparo.

Siguiendo el ejemplo de los santos, de los primeros cristianos y de nuestro Papa Francisco, en este mes de mayo elevemos juntos esta oración: ***"Bajo tu amparo nos acogemos, Santa Madre de Dios; no desprecies las súplicas que te dirigimos en nuestras necesidades, antes bien líbranos de todo peligro, ¡oh Virgen gloriosa y bendita!"***

Annual Catholic Appeal 2025
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

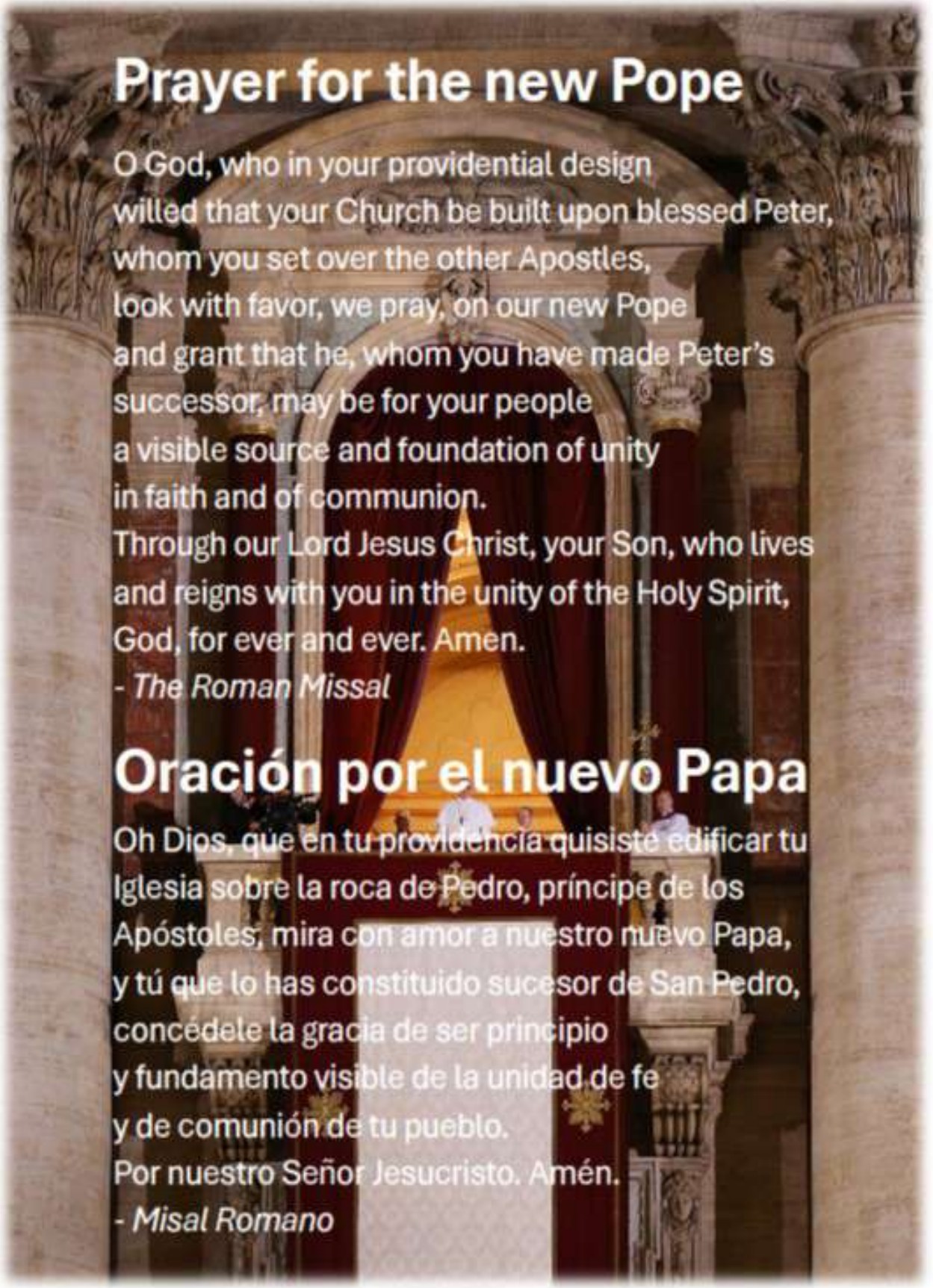
Jubilee of Hope, Renewal
Of **Faith** and **Charity**

Bring the Light of Christ to Those in Need

In a world filled with uncertainty, the faith and dedication of our priests, religious ministers, teachers, and parish communities in Brooklyn and Queens remain steadfast. But as faith strengthens, so do the needs of those we serve. Now more than ever, we need your support for the **2025 Annual Catholic Appeal** to bring Christ's love to our city and neighbors. Your generosity helps:

Connect young people to the Church	**Feed the hungry**	**Visit the sick and imprisoned**
Shelter the homeless	**Welcome the stranger**	**Care for the elderly**
Educate children in the faith	**Form deacons and priests**	

Your gift extends beyond what any single parish can do, benefiting the faithful across the diocese— including **our church community**. We are grateful to the **69** donors who have already made a generous commitment to this year's Appeal. As of May 5, 2025 $28,610 has been pledged, from which $20,913 has been received. Join us in making a difference! We invite all who can support this vital mission. Give today at **annualcatholicappeal.org**, text **DONATE** to **917-336-1255**, scan the QR code, or call **718-965-7375** to request a pledge card by mail. Thank you for being a beacon of faith and hope!



Prayer for the new Pope

O God, who in your providential design
willed that your Church be built upon blessed Peter,
whom you set over the other Apostles,
look with favor, we pray, on our new Pope
and grant that he, whom you have made Peter's
successor, may be for your people
a visible source and foundation of unity
in faith and of communion.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.
- The Roman Missal

Oración por el nuevo Papa

Oh Dios, que en tu providencia quisiste edificar tu
Iglesia sobre la roca de Pedro, príncipe de los
Apóstoles, mira con amor a nuestro nuevo Papa,
y tú que lo has constituido sucesor de San Pedro,
concédele la gracia de ser principio
y fundamento visible de la unidad de fe
y de comunión de tu pueblo.
Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Amén.
- Misal Romano

MOUNT CARMEL OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET

ASTORIA QUEENS

Featuring artists & crafters, small businesses, and home goods & clothing vendors! Food & beverages will be sold by OLMC Vendors ONLY !

Support the OLMC Youth Rome Pilgrimage For many of our members, it will be their first time traveling, and what joy that it will be a spiritual journey! Your generosity and participation in this event will greatly impact their lives.

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025
8:00AM-5:00PM

$40 PER TABLE
MUST SUBMIT A SIGNED CONTRACT
NO PERSONAL TABLES OR DISCOUNTS

ON NEWTOWN AVENUE
BETWEEN CRESCENT & 23RD STREETS

INTERESTED VENDORS:

Contracts at the Parish Office: 718.278.1834
Email: reception@mountcarmelastoria.org

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

NECESITAMOS A JOVENES PARA REPRESENTAR NUESTRA PARROQUIA!

WE NEED YOUTH TO REPRESENT OUR PARISH IN SPORTS GAMES!

El movimiento de Jornadas de Vida Cristiana invita a todos los jóvenes de la parroquia de edades 15 en adelante para un **día de juegos deportivos el 17 de Mayo en nuestra parroquia**. Los padres están invitados a participar a ver nuestro evento.

Jóvenes que desean participar en los juegos deben representar a nuestra parroquia usando una playera/ camisa de color morado e usar tenis cómodos. Deben hablar con Luis Sánchez para registrarse y pagar la donación de $2 por la entrada.

Se venderá comida para ayudar a cubrir los gastos del evento y para apoyar a la misión de Jornadas que es "Jóvenes Evangelizado Jóvenes." Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre este evento o sobre el movimiento de Jornadas, por favor hable con Luis Sánchez en la oficina parroquial.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

A few years back, I felt as if I couldn't hear God's voice the way I used to. The words in the Bible seemed like cold ink on a page. Prayer felt like sitting anxiously in a lonely room. I was worried how could I, a priest, preach or help others if I couldn't hear God's voice? It went on for months.

Then a friend encouraged me to go on a retreat and spend as much time as possible in silence. After a day or two of quiet prayer, I noticed gentle but clear thoughts of repentance in two specific areas of my life. I asked God for the grace to change, and I went to confession. Suddenly, the divine silence that haunted me was filled with a sense of God's closeness and goodness. I realized, gratefully, that God had been speaking to me in the quiet voice of my conscience.

This week we hear Jesus say, "My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me" (John 10:27). Jesus links the hearing of his voice to following him. He speaks to us in our conscience in an intimate, personal way, when we most need to hear him. When you feel deaf to God's voice, perhaps it is time to listen in silence for His voice in your conscience calling you to hear and follow the Good Shepherd of your soul.

WE DON'T FOLLOW STRANGERS

I don't have all the answers to the questions I would love to ask Christ. "Why is this happening? Where are you taking me? What comes next?" But the beautiful thing is, I don't actually need those answers. I know him. He's got my hand. Wherever we're going is where I want to be.

I get a little crazy when it comes to my kids' safety. We've probably had a few too many conversations that could be entitled "What to Do If Mommy Loses You At the State Fair" or "Don't Trust People Just Because They Smile At You." Am I making them paranoid? Possibly. But that's something they can sort out later with their therapists.

Because here's the bottom line of it all I don't want to instill a fear of strangers into my kids, but I do want them to understand that you can't always trust people you don't know (heck, you can't always trust the people you do know, but that's another therapy-provoking conversation we can have when they're older).

If someone says, "Hey, follow me," and we don't know them, it's not always a great idea to comply. First, we have to ask questions. "Where are you taking me? Why are we going? Who else will be there?"

But if someone we know and love and trust says, "Hey, follow me." we don't even think twice, and we don't need to ask any questions. We know wherever we're going is a safe place for us because we have a relationship with the person doing the leading. We feel comfortable putting ourselves in their care.

That's why it's so important to Christ that we know him. That we have a relationship with him. That we trust him.

Because we don't follow strangers, do we?

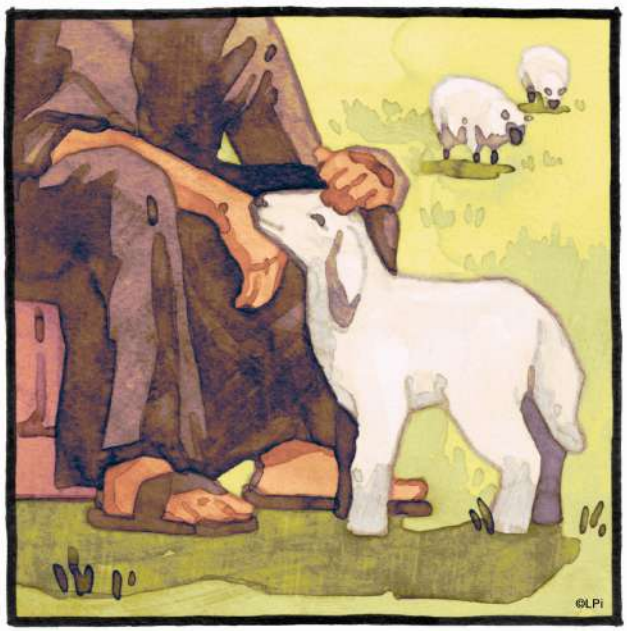
I don't have all the answers to the questions I would love to ask Christ. "Why is this happening? Where are you taking me?" But the beautiful thing is, I don't actually need those answers. I know him. He's got my hand. Wherever we're going is where I want to be.

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

WHY DO CATHOLICS GENUFLECT?

Genuflection is an act of devotion that literally means "to bend the knee. For many Catholics, it's an almost automatic gesture that we perform before entering our pew or row of seats at Mass. But, like many of the symbols and gestures of our faith tradition, genuflecting can also be an invitation for deeper reflection.

The practice of "bending the knee" is an ancient way of recognizing the presence of someone greater than we are. It has been said that the practice dates back. to the time of Alexander the Great, but it became a common part of etiquette in the royal courts of the Middle Ages. From throne rooms and palaces, it was a small step to genuflecting becoming part of the devotional lives of Christians, who used this secular gesture as a way of recognizing the presence of the One who is King of Kings, especially in the Eucharist.

Today, Catholics are asked to genuflect. in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (whether in the tabernacle or exposed on the altar during eucharistic adoration). So, while it has become second nature to genuflect before entering your seat in church, we should pay attention to where the Blessed Sacrament is kept in each church or chapel that we visit. and genuflect in the direction of the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. In churches or chapels in which the tabernacle is in a separate space, wo are invited to simply bow toward the altar.

In addition to genuflecting before the Blessed Sacrament, we are also instructed to genuflect before the cross used for veneration on Good Friday (during the solemn celebrations of the Lord's Passion) and any time a relic of the True Cross is displayed for veneration. This long-standing tradition is a way of honoring the cross as the great sign of our salvation and of showing devotion to the passion of Jesus.