OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH

The Mother Church of Queens County

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Msgr. "John" Cuong M. Pham, *Pastor*

Rev. "Joseph" Hung Sy Tran, *Parochial Vicar*
Rev. Vito Jumao-as, *Parochial Vicar*

Deacon Jacob Rodriguez

Celeste Stewart, *Parish Manager*
cstewart@diobrook.org

Nelly Gutierrez, *Religious Ed Coordinator*
ccdmountcarmel@gmail.com

Luis Sanchez, *Parish Secretary*
Lsanchez@diobrook.org

Lucille Mascia, *Music Director*

Dayonel Mejia, *Youth Minister*

Mass Times

Weekend: Saturday Vigil 5:00PM
Sunday: 8:00AM *(English)*, 9:00AM *(Italian- Every 2nd & 4th Sunday in the Chapel)*, 9:30AM *(Bilingual)*, 10:30AM *(Czech-Slovak in the Chapel)*, 11:00AM *(English)*, 12:30PM *(Spanish)*, 3:00 PM *(Vietnamese)*

Weekday: 8:00AM & 12:00PM, Saturday 8:00AM

First Fridays: 7:30 PM *(Spanish)*
Holy Days: 8:00AM & 12:00PM, 7:30PM *(Bilingual)*
Holidays: 9:00AM

Office Hours

Weekday: 9:00am—8:00pm
Saturday: 9:00am—5:00pm

Infant Baptisms & Adult Sacraments: Contact Deacon Jacob Rodriguez for registration.

Confessions: Every Saturday in the Chapel from 3:30pm-4:30pm or by appointment during the week.

Weddings: Arrangements must be made 6 months in advance with a priest.

Sweet Sixteen: Celebrated for parish members who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Anointing of the Sick: Available upon need. Hospital patients may ask to see the priest chaplain.

Bautismos Infantiles y Sacramentos para Adultos: Hable con el Diacono Rodríguez para registraciones.

Confesiones: Cada sábado en la capilla de 3:30pm-4:30pm o por cita durante la semana.

Bodas: Arreglos deben hacerse 6 meses en avance con un sacerdote.

Quinceaños: Solamente para miembros de la parroquia que han recibido la Confirmación.

Unción de los Enfermos: Disponible por necesidad. Pacientes de hospital pueden pedir ver el capellán.

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

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24 *(Saint Francis de Sales)*

5:00pm Mercedes & Antonio Hernandez, Aurelia Moreno, Ariel Moyano, Edward "Teddy" White III, Tommy Sadlo, Mercedes Beck, Repiedad Family

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25 *(Third Sunday in Ordinary Time)*

8:00am Richard Lobo & Family *(In Thanksgiving)*

9:00am Caterina Chiaramonte & Serafina Sacramone

9:30am Our Lady of Altagracia, Francisco Jose Marcial, Natividad Perez, Juan Piña, Liliana Lopez, Liliana Fuentes *(En accion de Gracias por su salud)*

11:00am Joyce Cosgrove

12:30pm Anna Timotheatos, José Flavio Santos Zarate, Juana Templos, Consuelo Peña Cordero, María Cortes, Rogelio Raymundo, Constantina Rojas, Francisco Cano Martínez, Paola Antonia Gomez, Almas del Purgatorio

3:00pm For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, JANUARY 26 *(Saint Timothy & Saint Titus)*

8:00am Francesco Del Greco

12:00pm Linda Smith *(For Healing)*

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27 *(Saint Angela Merici)*

8:00am Sebastian Mont'Etna

12:00pm Roy Dean Teves

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28 *(Saint Thomas Aquinas)*

8:00am Pedro Bitancur, Jr. *(Living—Birthday)*

12:00pm Salvatore & Antonia Leto

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

8:00am Deceased Members of the Min & Suh Family

12:00pm Serafina Sacramone

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

8:00am Maria & Nicolo del Greco

12:00pm Victory, Martha & Cassandra Berrocal and Alvin Trusty

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 *(Saint John Bosco)*

8:00am Maria Bueno & Family *(Living)*

5:00pm Maria Nacinovich *(Memorial),* Paul Chin Nyen, Robert Russo, Jr., Francisca Tria *(Death Anniversary)* Sophia Harkins *(22nd Anniversary)*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1 *(Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time)*

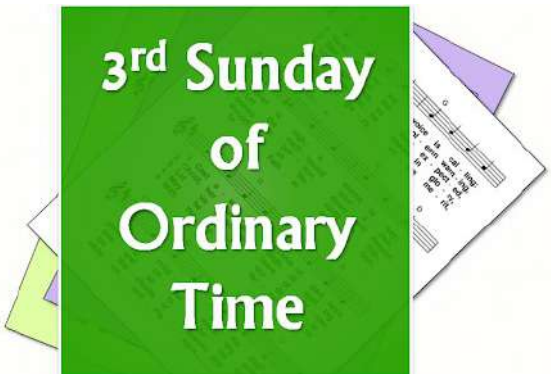
8:00am Joseph Roeder

9:30am The Living & Deceased Members of Our Parish's Rosary Society, Bryan Lobo *(14th Birthday)*

11:00am Nicoletta Todisco

12:30pm Flora Castillo Castro, José Flavio Santos Zarate, Juana Templos, Consuelo Peña Cordero, María Cortes, Rogelio Raymundo, Johanni Moreno, Constantina Rojas

3:00pm For the People of the Parish



SECOND COLLECTIONS

We will have second collections taken after communion on the following dates. We thank you for your generosity.

January 25, 2026— Churches in Need
February 8, 2026– Parish Maintenance

SEGUNDA COLECTA

Tendremos una segunda colecta despues se la comunion en las siguientes fechas. Les agradecemos su generosidad.

25 de Enero, 2026— Parroquias en Necesidad
8 de febrero, 2026— Mantenimiento Parroquial

2025 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

As of January 21, 2026, 185 donors have pledged $86,110 from which $84,005 have been received. We thank all donors for contributing to our parish goal.

In the coming weeks, we will begin our 2026 Annual Catholic Appeal. Together, we can continue to support the various ministries of our diocese and of our parish.

A partir del 21 de enero, 2026, 185 donantes han prometido $86,110 de cual $84,005 han sido recibidos. Les agradecemos a todos por contribuir a nuestra meta.

En las próximas semanas, comenzaremos la Campaña Católica del 2026. Juntos, podemos continuar apoyando a los varios ministerios de la diócesis y de nuestra parroquia.

CONTRIBUTIONS REPORT

Faith Direct December 2024: $5,095
Parish Soft December 2025: $5,241

GROUP AND SOCIETY MEETINGS IN OUR PARISH INSTITUTE

Sunday, January 25

8:00am—11:30am	Italian Community	*Lourdes A/B*
9:00am—5:00pm	Altagracia Celebration	*Gym*
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—12:00pm	Spanish OCIA	*Fatima & Upper Room*
10:00am—12:30pm	Cursillo	*Guadalupe A*
10:00am—1:00pm	Czech Community	*Guadalupe B*
1:30pm—3:00pm	Quinceañera Class	*Lourdes A/B*
1:30pm—3:30pm	Via Crucis	*Fatima*
3:00pm—6:00pm	Cursillo Meeting	*Guadalupe A*

Monday, January 26

7:00am—5:00pm	TYWLS	*Gym*
5:00pm—9:00pm	CYO	*Gym*
7:00pm—9:00pm	English OCIA	*Guadalupe B*

Tuesday, January 27

7:00am—4:00pm	TYWLS	*Gym*
5:00pm—9:00pm	CYO	*Gym*
5:30pm—7:00pm	Mariachi Practice	*Balcony Room*
6:00pm—9:00pm	Jornada Meeting	*Lourdes A/B*
6:00pm—9:00pm	Marriage Encounter	*Guadalupe A/B +Fatima*
7:00pm—9:00pm	Practica de Coro #1	*Nazareth*

Wednesday, January 28

7:00am—4:00pm	TYWLS	*Gym*
4:00pm—7:30pm	Religious Education	*All Rooms*
7:30pm—10:00pm	CYO	*Gym*

Thursday, January 29

7:00am—5:00pm	TYLWS	*Gym*
10:00am—11:30am	Legion of Mary	*Guadalupe B*
5:30pm—7:30pm	Religious Education	*All Rooms*
7:30pm—9:30pm	OLMC Jornada Group	*Guadalupe A*
7:30pm—10:00pm	CYO	*Gym*

Friday, January 30

7:00am—5:00pm	TYLWS+ Basketball	*Gym*
5:00pm—10:00pm	CYO	*Gym*
6:30pm—9:00pm	OLMC Youth Group	*Guadalupe A/B*
6:30pm—9:00pm	Practica de Niños	*Lourdes A/B*

Saturday, January 31

9:00am—7:00pm	CYO	*Gym*
9:00am—11:00am	Reunion de Amistad #15	*Fatima*
9:00am—1:00pm	AA Meeting	*Guadalupe A/B*
10:00am—12:00pm	Coro de Niños	*Lourdes A/B*
3:00pm—5:00pm	Conf. Sessions 1-3	*Guadalupe A/B+ Fatima*
4:00pm—9:00pm	Adult Sewing Group	*Lourdes A/B*
5:00pm—7:00pm	Ministerio de Consolacion	*Fatima*
5:00pm—7:00pm	Bilingual Choir Practice	*Nazareth*
7:00pm—10:00pm	Practica Coro #2	*Guadalupe A/B*
7:00pm—10:00pm	Vietnamese Lion Practice	*Gym*

Sunday, February 1

9:00am—7:00pm	CYO	*Gym*
9:00am—1:00pm	Rosary Society	*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	*Fatima & Upper Room*
10:00am—12:30pm	Cursillo	*Guadalupe A*
10:00am—1:00pm	Czech Community	*Guadalupe B*
2:00pm—3:00pm	Grupo de Amistad #14	*Fatima*

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 _____ **ZIP** _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

PLEASE MARK ONE:

[ ] New Registration [ ] Change of Address

PLEASE MARK ONE:

[ ] 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:_____ **Código Postal**_____

Teléfono: _____

E-mail: _____

POR FAVOR MARCAR:

[ ] Nueva Registración [ ] Cambio de dirección

POR FAVOR MARCAR:

[ ] Prefiero Sobres [ ] Donaciones en línea

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

January 25 2026

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

If you have ever turned off the television and felt your heart grow heavy, you are not alone. Many people today are not tired because of work, but because of the world around us. The tension feels constant, the voices feel harsher, and the arguments feel endless. Little by little, it can seem as if society is slowly fracturing—leaving many ordinary people anxious, discouraged, and longing for peace.

At least that is how I feel. Many mornings, after reading the headlines and seeing what is happening in our world, I find myself tired and discouraged. Very little of what I see on TV or read in the news feels inspiring or uplifting. Much of it makes me sad and leaves me wondering: Where is the world going? What happened to truth, to common sense, to respect, to dignity? Can we still trust the integrity of our institutions and systems, or are we being pulled more and more toward extremes? At times I even catch myself asking, "Is what I am reading really true, or is it simply someone's ideology?"

I suspect many of you feel the same way.

In moments like this, we need more than opinions. We need light. That is exactly what the Word of God offers us on this Third Sunday of Ordinary Time: *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light"* (Isaiah 8:23—9:30). God does not deny the darkness, but He refuses to let it have the final word.

That is why it is so striking that Jesus began His public ministry in Galilee, not in a calm or perfect setting, but in a place under pressure. And the first words He proclaims are clear and urgent: *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"* (Matthew 4:12-23). Repentance is not merely feeling sorry for sin; it is a change of direction. It is turning away from whatever pulls us into darkness—anger, bitterness, pride, harshness—and turning toward the Lord, who is the true Light.

Saint Paul brings this message into the real life of the Church. The Christian community in Corinth had become divided, and those divisions were weakening their witness. People were forming rivalries and factions. Some said, *"I belong to Paul,"* others, *"I belong to Apollos,"* others, *"I belong to Cephas."* Saint Paul interrupts them with one simple question that cuts through all the noise: *"Is Christ divided?"* (1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17).

That question speaks directly to our own time. We live in a culture that trains people to take sides, harden their hearts, and speak in ways that leave little room for understanding. Yet if Christ is our Light, we cannot live in the darkness of contempt. If Christ is our Lord, we cannot treat division as normal. The Light that Christ brings should shape us into people of humility, patience, mercy, and charity—virtues that build unity instead of destroying it.

And here is the challenge: division is not only something "out there." It can begin "in here," within our own hearts, through small habits that quietly spread darkness—sharp words, quick judgments, stubborn pride, gossip, sarcasm, or the need to win. These things may seem small, but they shape the soul, weaken communion, and rob us of peace.

Dear friends, Jesus did not come only to give us light. He came to make us light. The world does not need more people who know how to argue; it needs more disciples who know how to bless. It needs Christians who can be calm in chaos, merciful in conflict, and faithful in confusion—people who build bridges instead of burning them.

So this week, let repentance become practical. Repent not only of the sins we confess, but also of the negativity we normalize and the unity we unknowingly weaken. Choose one simple act of light: be the first to soften your tone, the first to forgive, the first to apologize, the first to pray before reacting.

In a world that feels fractured, a united parish becomes a sign of hope. Let us be one parish family again—one heart, one purpose, centered on Jesus Christ.

With my prayers and blessing,

Msgr. "John" Cuong Pham

DEL CORAZON DEL PASTOR

25 de enero, 2026

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Si alguna vez han apagado la televisión y han sentido el corazón pesado, no están solos. Hoy en día, muchos no estamos cansados por el trabajo, sino por el mundo que nos rodea. La tensión se siente constante, las voces suenan más duras, y las discusiones parecen interminables. Poco a poco, da la impresión de que nuestra sociedad se está partiendo en pedazos, y eso deja a mucha gente sencilla inquieta, desanimada y con un gran deseo de paz.

Así me siento yo también. Muchas mañanas, al leer los titulares y ver lo que está pasando en el mundo, me siento cansado y desalentado. Muy poco de lo que veo en la televisión o leo en las noticias resulta inspirador o edificante. Muchas cosas me entristecen y me hacen preguntarme: ¿Hacia dónde vamos? ¿Qué pasó con la verdad, con el sentido común, con el respeto, con la dignidad? ¿Todavía podemos confiar en la integridad de nuestras instituciones y sistemas, o cada vez nos están arrastrando más hacia los extremos? A veces me descubro preguntándome: "¿Lo que estoy leyendo es realmente verdad, o es simplemente la ideología de alguien?"

Sospecho que muchos de ustedes se sienten igual.

En momentos como estos, necesitamos más que opiniones. Necesitamos luz. Y precisamente eso es lo que la Palabra de Dios nos ofrece en este Tercer Domingo de Tiempo Ordinario *"El pueblo que caminaba en tinieblas vio una gran luz"* (Isaías 8,23—9,3). Dios no niega la oscuridad, pero se rehúsa a dejar que tenga la última palabra.

Por eso impresiona tanto que Jesús haya comenzado su ministerio público en Galilea: no en un ambiente perfecto y tranquilo, sino en un lugar bajo presión. Y sus primeras palabras son claras y urgentes: *"Conviértanse, porque el Reino de los cielos está cerca"* (Mateo 4,12-23). Convertirse no significa solamente "sentirse mal" por el pecado. Significa cambiar de rumbo. Significa apartarnos de todo lo que nos arrastra a la oscuridad—el enojo, el rencor, el orgullo, la dureza del corazón—y volvernos hacia el Señor, que es la verdadera Luz.

San Pablo trae este mensaje a la vida concreta de la Iglesia. La comunidad cristiana en Corinto se había dividido, y esas divisiones estaban debilitando su testimonio. Había rivalidades y bandos. Unos decían: *"Yo soy de Pablo,"* otros: *"Yo soy de Apolo,"* otros: *"Yo soy de Cefas."* Y San Pablo los detiene con una sola pregunta que corta todo el ruido: *"¿Acaso Cristo está dividido?"* (1 Corintios 1,10-13.17).

Esa pregunta habla directamente a nuestro tiempo. Vivimos en una cultura que nos empuja a tomar partido, a endurecer el corazón, y a hablar de maneras que no dejan espacio para comprender al otro. Pero si Cristo es nuestra Luz, no podemos vivir en la oscuridad del desprecio. Si Cristo es nuestro Señor, no podemos tratar la división como si fuera algo normal. La luz que Cristo trae debe formarnos en la humildad, la paciencia, la misericordia y la caridad—virtudes que construyen unidad, no que la destruyen.

Y aquí viene el desafío: la división no está solamente "allá afuera." También puede empezar "aquí adentro," dentro de nuestro propio corazón, a través de hábitos pequeños que parecen inofensivos pero que van apagando la luz: palabras hirientes, juicios rápidos, orgullo terco, chismes, sarcasmo, o esa necesidad de "ganar" siempre. Tal vez parezcan cosas pequeñas, pero van formando el alma, debilitando la comunión, y robándonos la paz.

Queridos amigos, Jesús no vino solamente a darnos luz. Vino a hacernos luz. El mundo no necesita más personas que sepan pelear o discutir; necesita más discípulos que sepan bendecir. Necesita cristianos capaces de mantener la calma en medio del caos, de ser misericordiosos en medio del conflicto, y fieles en medio de la confusión—personas que construyan puentes en vez de quemarlos.

Por eso, esta semana, hagamos que la conversión sea algo concreto. Convirtámonos no solo de los pecados que confesamos, sino también de la negatividad que normalizamos y de la unidad que, sin darnos cuenta, debilitamos. Elijan un acto sencillo de luz: ser el primero en bajar el tono, el primero en perdonar, el primero en pedir disculpas, el primero en orar antes de reaccionar.

En un mundo que se siente fracturado, una parroquia unida se convierte en un signo de esperanza. Seamos una sola familia parroquial: un solo corazón, un mismo propósito, centrados en Jesucristo.

Con mis oraciones y mi bendición,

Mons. "Juan" Cuong Pham

RECTORY CLOSING

The parish office will be closed on Monday, January 19, 2026 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. There will be only one English Mass celebrated in the main Church at 9:00am. The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 and will resume regular office and Mass schedules.

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 $15 per name. Those enrolled the Purgatorial Society will be remembered for a whole year. We have currently enrolled: **Kevin Wooley & Genevieve Gallagher**

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 to our Prayer List, please contact the parish office. There is no cost for enrolling people onto this list. We are currently praying for: **Maria Aparecida Leier Barretta, Jair Messias Bolsonaro & Dmytro Danyluk.**

INFANT BAPTISM/ BAUTISMOS

Please call the office to make an appointment to speak with Deacon Jacob to register your child for Baptism. You must bring the Birth Certificate of the child and $100 donation.

Preparation Meeting Tuesday-6:00pm-Institute	**Baptism Ceremony 12:00pm-Main Church**
January 20, 2026	January 24, 2026
February 24, 2026	February 28, 2026
March 24, 2026	March 28, 2026
April 21, 2026	April 25, 2026
May 19, 2026	May 23, 2026
June 23, 2026	June 27, 2026
July 21, 2026	July 25, 2026
August 18, 2026	August 22, 2026

Reunion de Preparacion Martes-6:00pm-Instituto	**Ceremonia de Bautismo 12:00pm-Iglesia**
10 de Febrero 2026	14 de Febrero 2026
10 de Marzo 2026	14 de Marzo 2026
7 de Abril 2026	11 de Abril 2026
5 de Mayo 2026	9 de Mayo 2026
9 d Junio 2026	13 de Junio 2026
7 de Julio 2026	11 de Julio 2026
4 de Agosto 2026	8 de Agosto 2026

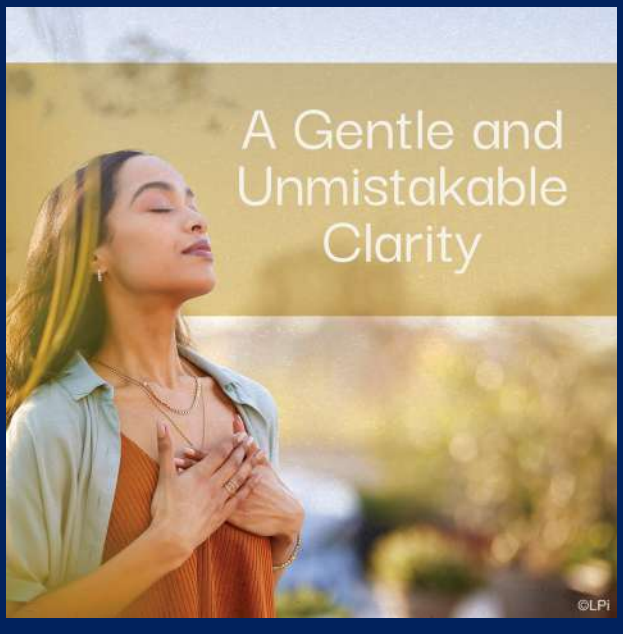
GOSPEL MEDITATION

I was 22 years old, lying in bed one night while on a pilgrimage, when I suddenly sensed an idea in my mind: "Go to the seminary." There was no voice, no vision, but a gentle and unmistakable clarity. I simply prayed, "Lord, if that's from you, let me find great joy in it." Three days later, my heart was bursting with joy. I dropped everything and entered the seminary. The older I get, the stranger my rather careless and hasty departure seems to me. I followed not because it made sense, or because I was especially brave. I went because the Lord called me.

Something like this happens in today's Gospel. Jesus walks by Simon, Andrew, James, and John and says, "Come after me" (Matthew 4:19). And immediately they leave their nets and follow. There's no explanation, no hesitation... just movement. Why? As St. John says, "In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us" (1 John 4:10). They do not leave their nets because his call made perfect, calculable sense. They left them because they were called. And Jesus' call is powerful.

Take a moment this week to remember when Christ first called you. However small or quiet it was, recall it, and give thanks. The more we marvel that Christ has called us personally, the more passionately and freely we will follow him.

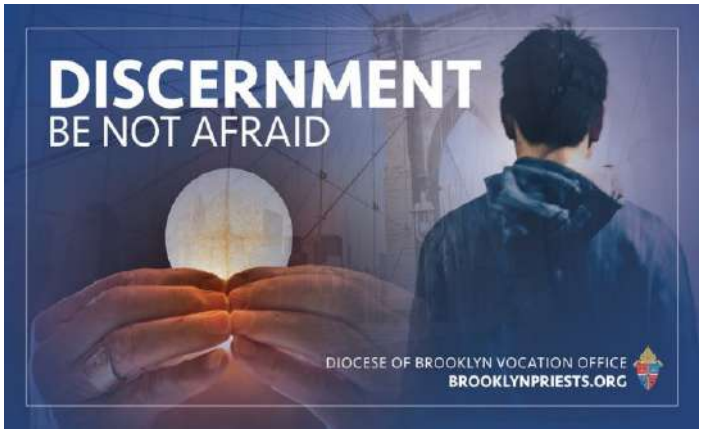
- Father John Muir



ROSARY SOCIETY MEETING

The next Rosary Society meeting will be held on February 1, 2026 after the 9:30am bilingual Mass, in the Lourdes room. All ladies over 15 years old are welcome. Refreshments will be served. Bring a friend!

FROM THE VOCATION DIRECTOR



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.

Fr. Chris Bethge, Vocation Director
718-827-2454 or email me at
cbethge@cathedralprep.org

FIRST FRIDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Spiritual writers speak of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as "the Mass held in contemplation." Devotion to the Eucharist will take place on **Friday, February 6, 2026**. 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.

VOTIVE OFFERINGS AND MEMORIALS

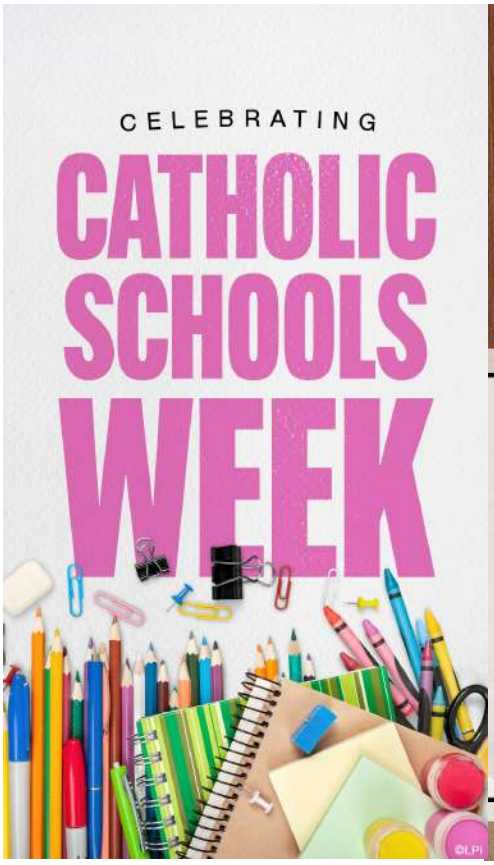
Mass Intentions:	$20
Purgatorial Mass with Card or Booklet:	$20
Weekly Altar Flowers:	$75

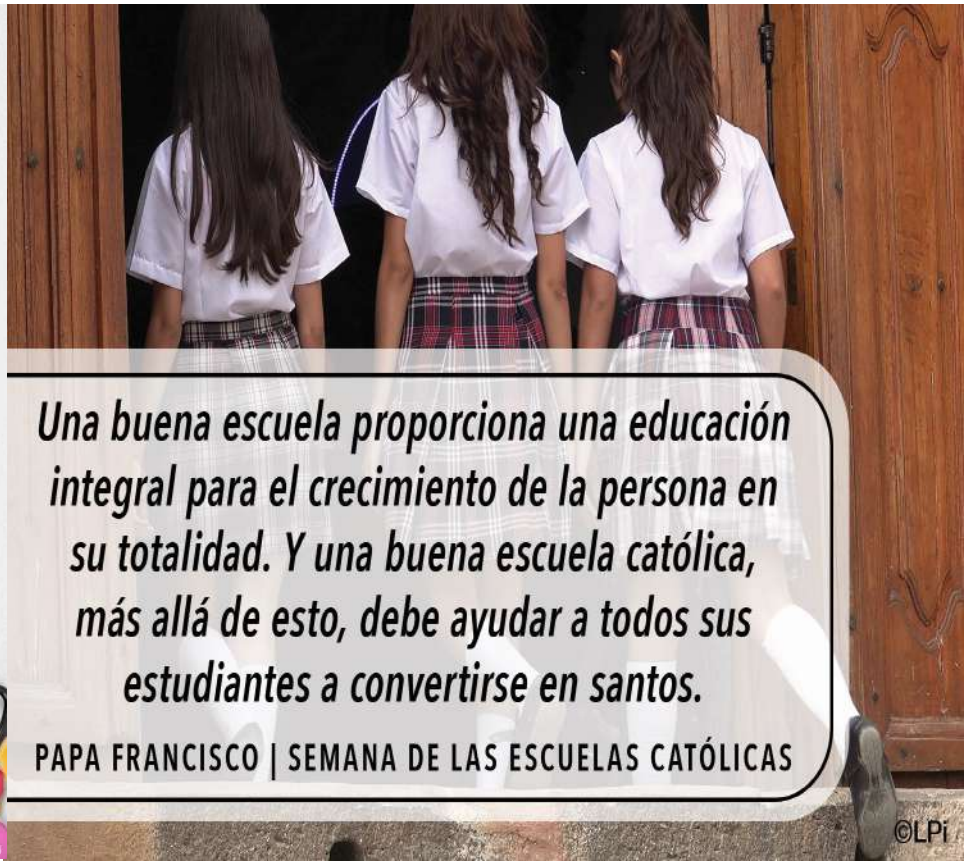
Bread and Wine, Sanctuary Lamp & Altar Candles are $35
The Tree of Life: (Please visit the parish office)
Gift categories include:

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus have established a council in our parish. They 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 at peterperroni040@gmail.com. The Knights meet in the parish institute at 8:00pm every second Wednesday of the month.





COMITÉ SANTIAGO APOSTOL INVITA A LA CENA BAILE

CELEBRANDO DIA DEL AMOR Y LA AMISTAD.

SABADO **14** DE FEBRERO, 2026.

BOLETOS $15. DLS.

PUERTAS ABREN 6:30 PM.

INSTITUTO DE MONTE CARMELO.

23-20 NEWTOWN AVE ASTORIA NEW YORK

EL SONIDO DEL FUTURO !!
ADICXION
PABLO FLORES

DJ, YAKO.
Para información.
(347) 453-7139.

Festival del Amor y la Amistad

FONDOS EXCLUSIVAMENTE

Para la celebración de San Santiago Apóstol.

VENTA DE BOLETOS EN LA OFICINA PARROQUIAL. PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN

TEL: Oficina (718) 278- 1834. - (347) 617- 5353.

Annual Catholic Appeal 2025
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

Message from Bishop Brennan

My dear friends in Christ,

Thank you for your generous support of the 2025 Annual Catholic Appeal.

Your prayers and sacrifices have strengthened the mission of the Church here in Brooklyn and Queens.

This year's theme — **Jubilee of Hope, Renewal of Faith, and Charity** — has come alive through your generosity.

Because of you, ministries are flourishing, families are cared for, youth and young adults are formed in faith, newcomers are welcomed, Catholic education is strengthened, and vocations are being nurtured for the future of our Church.

With gratitude, I thank you for making this possible.

May God bless you and your families always.

Most Reverend Robert J. Brennan
Bishop of Brooklyn

Campaña Católica Anual 2025
DIÓCESIS DE BROOKLYN

Mensaje del Obispo Brennan

Mis queridos amigos en Cristo,

Gracias por su generoso apoyo a la Campaña Católica Anual 2025. Sus oraciones y sacrificios han fortalecido la misión de la Iglesia en Brooklyn y Queens.

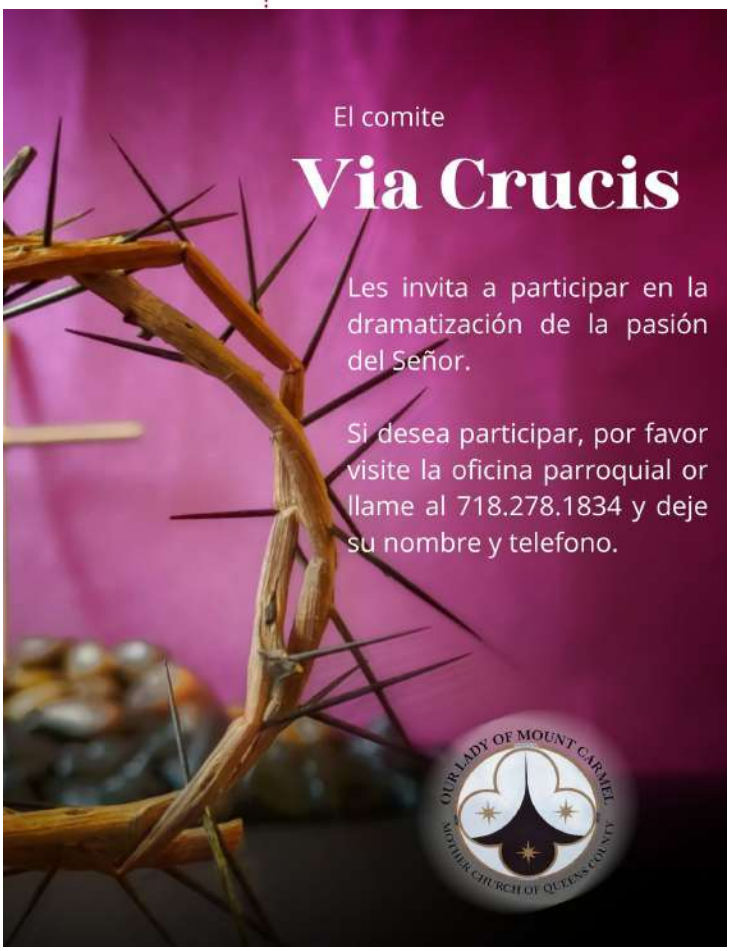
El lema de este año — **Jubileo de Esperanza, Renovación de Fe y Caridad** — se ha hecho realidad gracias a su generosidad.

Por ustedes, los ministerios crecen, las familias reciben atención, los jóvenes son formados en la fe, los recién llegados son bienvenidos, la educación católica se fortalece, y las vocaciones se preparan para el futuro de nuestra Iglesia.

Con gratitud, les doy las gracias por hacerlo posible.

Que Dios bendiga siempre a ustedes y a sus familias.

Reverendísimo Robert J. Brennan
Obispo de Brooklyn



SEA OF GALILEE MOMENTS

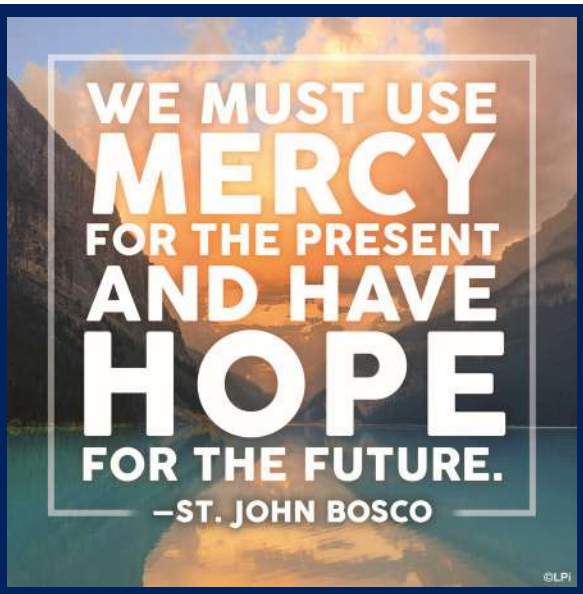
Young or old, believer or non-believer, rich or poor, healthy or sick: it doesn't matter who we are. It doesn't matter what our life looks like. If we are a human being, if we have a soul, we stand on the shore of a great and powerful sea, a net in our hands and a hunger in our soul.

So what's in the sea? I don't know about yours, but mine is filled with feelings of inadequacy. It's filled with fear and resentment and confusion. It's filled with misplaced pride. It's deep. It's dark. It's well-stocked.

I cast my net, over and over again. What else is there to do? If I draw back a harvest, it can sustain me for days, weeks, maybe even years. The nourishment of the sea can keep away the hunger pangs for a time. You can survive on fear and resentment and pride if it's all you have. You'll never feel full, and you'll never be strong, but you'll survive on what the world can offer you so long as you keep coming back to the shore.

This is where Jesus finds us.

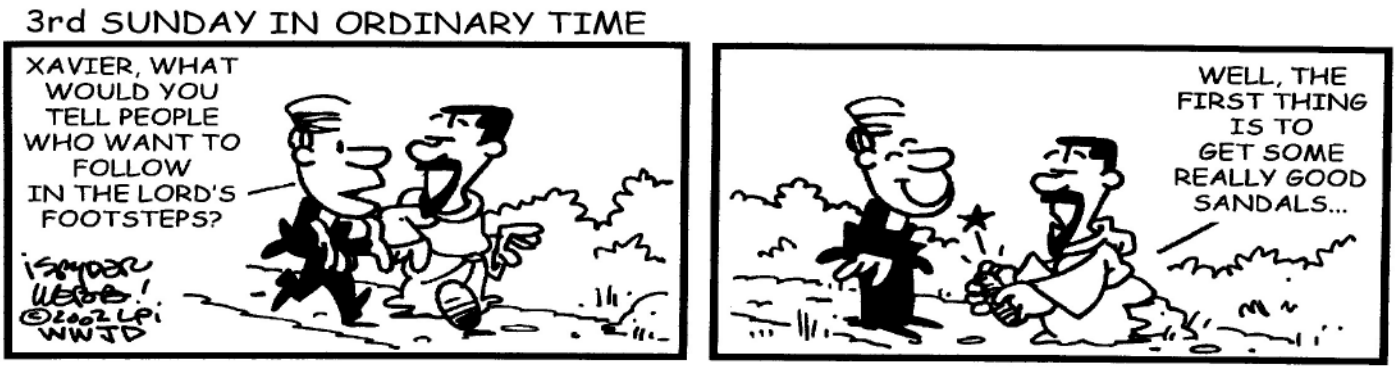
If I close my eyes, I can picture the moments exactly, all of them: my Sea of Galilee moments. I could describe them to you the day, the year, what was happening in my life, what I wanted and what I needed



and what gnawing hunger had brought me, once again, limping, crawling back to the shore.

But you wouldn't understand my Sea of Galilee moments, just like I wouldn't understand yours. There is only one who understands, and his is the voice we heard, clear and strong: "Put down the net, and come with me."

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



IF ONE'S GIFT OR TALENT IS MAKING MONEY, AND ONE USES THAT MONEY FOR HONORABLE PUPOSES, IS IT CONSIDERED A SPIRITUAL GIFT? WHAT DOES OUR FAITH TEACH US ABOUT WEALTH AND STEWARDSHIP?

Jesus said it best: to whom much is given, much is expected. All gifts come from God, and our abilities are given to us to be used for the benefit of ourselves and of others and at the service of the Gospel. In an article entitled "The Many Faces of Stewardship," Catherine Doherty wrote about stewardship in the "nitty-gritty everydayness of my life," and about the currency or "money" of spiritual stewardship: love, understanding, and unselfishness.

For a gift to have a spiritual benefit, our intention and involvement would be part of the consideration. If I give money to a charity, but do so in order to gain a tax advantage, it could hardly be a virtuous thing on my part. But if I give because I want to help and, in fact, am even willing to get involved, I have committed myself in a deeper, more meaningful way. Regardless of our money-making talents, in the end, true stewardship comes down to how well we practice the virtues of faith, hope, and love within our life and with those in our community and church. Ultimately, the most important element in stewardship is not intangible, it's you!

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