

Melissa Fasano

From: mail@flocknote.com on behalf of Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church
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To: Melissa Fasano
Subject: Parish Update: December 12, 2023



Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church
Cedar Knolls NJ

Parish Update December 12, 2023

**Welcome Grace-Marie to the 2nd Sunday/week of Advent and to our
parish community!
Congratulations to her proud parents, Sheline & Brandon!**



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**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**



Lord: Shine Your Light Upon Us

Women's Cornerstone XXIV February 2 & 3, 2024

*Lord...
Shine Your Light Upon Us*

*"Arise and shine, for your light has come
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you"*
Isaiah 60:1

This past weekend, the Women's Cornerstone Ministry officially opened registration for the upcoming Women's Cornerstone Retreat. Congregants at all Masses listened to witness speakers share how the Cornerstone Retreat has impacted their lives.

Below are two of the shared testimonials. Visit our website [HERE](#) for more testimonials, find out details, and register today!



Operation Chillout Message of Gratitude

Please take a few minutes to listen to an important message from Deacon Ray Chimileski regarding Operation Chillout, an outreach effort to support homeless veterans, and the impact that our response to his ask makes in the lives of so many veterans in need!



"Our team member volunteers at Operation Chillout are very thankful for our loyal and growing community of supporters. Those of you who share our commitment to serve local homeless veterans, men and women, have enabled our mission to thrive for the past 23 years. The incredible generosity of people who have contributed their time, unique abilities, and financial resources is truly inspiring. We value your friendship, share your enthusiasm, and appreciate how we all have connections to the most vulnerable members of our community." Deacon Ray Chimileski

Hallow App Event

By Q Furnald, Director of Youth Ministry & Contemporary Worship

We are so grateful to all those who came out for our Night of Worship with Alverlis and the Hallow App! This evening of Adoration, music, prayer, and fellowship was such a wonderful expression of our faith-filled community of Notre Dame. With such a diverse representation of our congregation and many voices lifted, we were able to really enter into our advent theme of hope and peace found in Christ's presence.



Grieving with Great Hope

"We are not called to suffer in isolation; rather, we should have people around us who will share in our sufferings. And those who have suffered pain are more sensitive to the pain in others; they themselves know what others are experiencing. Thus, those who have suffered pain are in an excellent position to be helpers of others."

This Fall, parishioners and leaders Liz Lavery and Debbie White facilitated the ***Grieving with Great Hope*** series, a healing journey for those grieving the loss of a loved one.



Jeremiah 29:11: 'For I know the plans I have for you.' "If anyone had told me last year that I would be facilitating the Grieving with Great Hope Series, I would have said no way, but now, I have co-facilitated not one but two series. As I journey through my own grief, I feel myself growing in a sense of peace. I have learned tools to deal with my grief on a day-to-day basis. I realize this journey will be with me for the rest of my life. I am so very grateful to all the participants who have answered the call to attend these sessions; it takes great courage. I have learned from them and hope they have learned from me. During this difficult time, I wish our group (and all others grieving during this season) a sense of peace and a very Merry Christmas." Debbie White



"In a short period of time, I've lost three important people in my life. I felt so lost, confused, and alone. I knew I had to do something. So, I signed up for Grieving with Great Hope.

From the first session, I immediately felt comfortable. Talking and listening to the other people in our group, I realized I am NOT alone. Even though our stories were different, we all felt the same pain. We understood each other. Liz & Debbie did an amazing job guiding us through our journey. They are so kind, considerate, and caring. They listened to our stories and openly shared theirs. They created a calm, safe space to heal at our own pace. I thought the videos were helpful, too. As our sessions went on, some of our tears turned to laughter. Which felt great; it's okay to laugh.

I've come to understand that grief does not have a timeline. It's still okay to feel sad; it's still okay to cry. Taking that first step took a lot of strength and courage, but I'm so glad I did. I actually feel a little lighter. I feel validated." Lynne

To those grieving the loss of a loved one, I would tell them, 'You are not alone; there are other people going through the same thing. Talking about it helps a lot. In

"Bereavement sessions were very helpful to my sister & I. I would absolutely tell anyone who needs it about the sessions. Our leaders were awesome! Thank you, Debbie & Liz."

*grieving, there is no time limit. It takes time,
but you will be alright.'"*

Service, Faith, and community in Christ live on in our youth!

By Q Furnald, Director of Youth Ministry & Contemporary Worship

This week's evening of Youth Ministry was organized and led by NDMC LifeTeen alumni **Colleen**! The impact Youth ministry had on her continues to bear fruit and gives a glance to the existing teens about the continued faith journey that goes far beyond graduation. Service, Faith, and community in Christ live on in our youth!



"This week following the 6 pm Mass, our teens participated in a night to learn more about the Catholic faith and its relation to Christmas! We played many different games, from trivia, word unscrambles, and an A-Z race. Our teens even attempted to draw the living nativity scene without being able to see what they were drawing! The results were amazing!! We had a very fun night learning more about Jesus and Christmas in the Catholic Faith." Colleen





Learning about Our Lady of Guadalupe

By Diane Byrne, Elementary Family Faith Coordinator

On Sunday, **Adela Campos and her grandson Kaiden** told us the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mary's appearances to St. Juan Diego in Mexico, through word and action.



Adela told the story. Mary appeared to Juan Diego and asked him to build a church. Juan relayed the message to the bishop, who did not believe Juan asked for a sign. Mary instructed Juan to go to the rocky hill and pick roses. It was winter, and nothing grew on the stony hill, but Juan went anyway. He collected the roses in his cloak. When he opened his cloak before the bishop, the flowers fell out, and an image of Mary appeared on the cloak.



As Adela told the story, Kaiden played the role of St. Juan Diego. Kaiden spoke some lines but mostly acted out the story. Kaiden even had a cloak with an image of Mary on it!

We celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12, which happens to be today!



Special shoutout to Adela and her grandson Kayden!! They joined our parish community in August of this year and jumped right into serving our parish! Adela is part of the Family Mass Core Team, while Kayden participates in the Joyful Noise choir. In addition, they both enjoy welcoming folks at the entrance before the Family Mass!

What brought them to Notre Dame? The Holy Spirit Who moved the heart of a seeking grandma **and** the **Cohan family**, who not only extended an invitation to join them at the Family Mass but also provided a witness and a welcoming path for them to "jump right in!" What a bunch of amazing and deeply inspiring Missionary Disciples!!



Family Faith: Mass Transit Conversations

(Comments reflect previous Sundays' celebrations)

What was one new insight the homily gave you?

"Fr. Alex loves Christmas movies."

"To always do the right thing; lead by example, especially for my brother."

"Jesus is among us now even though we wait for him at Christmas. Is my encounter with God going to transform me? We don't have to wait for second coming."

"Use your talents; don't let them be wasted."

"When I collected food for the pantry with Cub Scouts last weekend, it was like feeding Jesus."

Was there something special you noticed at Mass today?

"The priest was wearing gold and white instead of green."

"The girls loved the contemporary worship music and hope to one day participate; it was beautiful!" [attended 6 pm Mass]

"We took a giving tag off the tree after Mass."

"Lit the first advent candle!"

"A scapular has the image of Mary in it."

"Fr. Paddy did Mass at church this morning."

"Even though you may not like someone, you still need to be nice to them."

"Helping other people helps Jesus."

"Advent is about waiting for Jesus's return."

"Go to God even when you do something wrong."

"Don't judge people."

"We saw Communion given to people to bring to the homebound/blessing new Eucharistic ministers."

"I noticed that we have more seats at our church; they also don't have a big cross; I noticed that this church is decorated differently" [family attended Mass elsewhere]

"I really liked the last song."

Confirmation Level 1: Checking in, plus...

By Laura Balogh, Director of Family Faith Formation

This faith year, our Confirmation Level 1 families are experiencing the **Pathways Mercy** resources **at home**, learning about the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. As part of the program, they also have four In-church sessions throughout the year to check in and complete a service project together that will benefit those in need in our community.

Earlier this month, the 45 families gathered for one of the four in-church sessions. They were invited to share in small groups about their experiences thus far working with the **Pathways Mercy** resources at home; they shared a funny moment, a challenging moment, and something they found meaningful about the journey to date. The session also explored the Spiritual Work of Mercy of **Comforting the Sick**.





Jim Baratte and Debbie White, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and leaders in our Homebound Ministry, were our special guests. Jim provided a beautiful witness talk to the participants about what an EM is and why he is part of this ministry, relating some stories about his experiences with visiting Homebound members of our faith community. He brought several examples of a pyx, explaining that this is the round container used to carry the Eucharist to the homebound. He also brought a burse, a small pouch used to hold the pyx.



Following some Q&A with the families, the participants created one-decade rosaries, which will be distributed to the recipients of our Homebound visits. Several of our families took additional materials home to create more rosaries together for loved ones.



To close out the session, we prayed one decade of the rosary. It's our hope that this session will inspire more of our parents to join this special ministry.

"My daughter Hannah and I enjoyed making the rosaries and learning about the homebound mission. We enjoy the service - the "doing" activities. It was meaningful and engaging." Nancy Rocco

"We love doing something active to help our community! It helps keep the kids engaged and focused on others in service acts." The Slaughter Family

Please keep our Faith Formation families in your prayers as they continue their catechesis this year!

Parish Pastoral Council Seeking Nominations!

To nominate a parishioner (or yourself) for the PPC, please visit the Parish Pastoral Council page on our website [HERE](#) to submit a nomination form. Those nominated will be contacted and asked to submit an application to be considered for Parish Pastoral Council Membership. The Parish Pastoral Council will prayerfully review and consider all nominee applications and present recommendations to our Pastor, Fr. Paddy. Fr. Paddy will make the final decision and extend the invitation to those selected for the upcoming term.



**This week's Mass
& Lamp Intentions**

**Parishioner
Announcements**

Memories that share our story...

Family Mass







11:30 am Mass





Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications



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