

Melissa Fasano

From: mail@flocknote.com on behalf of Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church
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Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 11:09 AM
To: Melissa Fasano
Subject: Parish Update: November 28, 2023



Parish Update

November 28, 2023

www.ndcarmel.com

The Eucharist is the cure for our loneliness.

An excerpt from an article By Molly Judd, OSV News

"Recently, I interviewed a Missionary of Charity in the Bronx who told me about a time she was working outside in the convent garden and noticed a man on top of a nearby high-rise. He was leaning over the edge with one foot. It was a serious scene. Quickly, there were police, and a net was placed underneath him. Moved with fear and compassion, she ran inside, calling, "Sisters! We must pray! A man is thinking about jumping from the roof!"

Every sister in that house hurried to the sidewalk. One of them, Sister Clare, had a moment of inspiration. "We must get Jesus!" With the permission of the convent superior, the Eucharist was brought out to the sidewalk and quickly passed along to a priest who had joined the prayers. Something incredible happened. Father ran

toward the troubled man as the sisters continued praying on the ground. At the top, he got the man's attention. Softly, gently, but with conviction, he said, "You are loved. Jesus is here. Do not be afraid. Jesus is here."



"We may never know what occurred in that man's heart that day or what he personally experienced from the sacramental presence of Jesus. But we do know things by their fruits. Something changed for this man when he met Jesus. Something happened when Father brought Jesus to a soul in trouble."

"Encounters with God in our vulnerable humanity assure us that we are loved unconditionally, and so we are accompanied, always. Thus, the Eucharist becomes a source of comfort, solace, and a profound connection to a Father who loves us. The Eucharist is a powerful remedy for our hearts. It brings us into communion with Christ Jesus, who loves us — who is God and man. It brings people together in a community of faith that calls us to love and serve others."

[Click HERE for the full article.](#)

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist Outreach to our Homebound

By Fr. Alex

In the tapestry of faith, the presence of the Eucharist weaves an intricate thread that binds believers to a profound sense of communion with the divine. For those who find themselves homebound, separated physically from the communal celebration of the Mass, the Eucharist becomes a vital lifeline, a tangible reminder that they are not alone in their journey of faith.



[At the 11:30 am Mass, Fr. Alex offers a blessing to Joe Bono prior to Joe's visiting homebound parishioners and bringing to them the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.]

Sherry Weddell, a prominent figure in the field of evangelization, underscores the importance of fostering a sense of belonging within the Church, especially for those facing physical limitations. Extraordinary ministers of communion emerge as pivotal messengers of this divine connection, bearing the sacred gift of the Eucharist to the doorsteps of the homebound. In these moments, the tangible presence of Jesus in the Eucharist transcends the confines of a church building, providing solace, spiritual nourishment, and a tangible manifestation of Christ's

enduring companionship, reinforcing the belief that, even in solitude, one is embraced by the arms of the divine.



[At the 6 pm Mass, Fr. Alex commissioned Kristina Catania to serve our parish as an Extraordinary Minister to the Homebound.]

The Gift of Friendsgiving

By Q Furnald, Director of Youth Ministry & Contemporary Worship



Our second annual Youth Ministry Friendsgiving Dinner was a tremendously blessed evening! After a beautiful Mass celebrating our Lord, we gathered around the table to share joy and gratitude. Many hands prepared the feast from both our adult core team and the teens who brought sides and desserts to accompany the turkey prepared by Fr. Alex. We certainly all left with full stomachs and full hearts! We are especially grateful that some of our alumni from Youth Ministry were able to join us for the meal, too. We all have many reasons to thank God this holiday season!

Fall 2023 Discipleship Groups

Earlier this Fall, eight of our faithful parishioners and leaders stepped up to lead a Discipleship Group. The small faith-sharing groups, which varied in theme, format, and number of sessions, welcomed a total of 66 participants. Below, we share

insights and feedback from some leaders and participants who have completed the journey.

The Eucharist in Scripture: Led by Tanya D'Souza



"We thanked God our Father for His precious gift of His Son in The Eucharist, for His church, for the Sacraments which help strengthen us on our earthly pilgrimage to the Cross and onwards to His Kingdom, our Heavenly home. Deo Gratias!

God is never outdone in generosity. Each time I say yes, Lord, and invest the time to participate in (and lead) a Bible Study Discipleship Group, I receive more than I put in. I am blessed with many graces, more understanding, knowledge, and love of Scripture. My fellow participants all echo this same sentiment. If you are looking to

"This class was really wonderful. There were so many things I learned about the Mass and the Eucharist. One of the really remarkable stories about the former Protestant Minister Scott Hahn was his conversion through the Mass. In a similar light, one of our fellow group members told a great story of returning to the Catholic faith after entering a Catholic Church and being enveloped in an embrace by our loving God. The Lord truly pursues us and wants us as his own." Mike Mulligan

grow in your faith, learn more about the Bible, and enjoy fellowship and community, please do consider joining our next Bible study discipleship group." Tanya D'Souza

"Though I felt a bit overwhelmed at times, I am so glad I participated in this study. I was unaware of the correlation between the Passover and Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. As a result, I have a renewed appreciation of the Eucharist and what is occurring during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. I leave you with one of Scott Hahn's quotes that has resonated with me, "Jesus paid a debt he didn't owe because we owed a debt we couldn't pay." Debbie White

Into His Likeness: Be Transformed as a Disciple of Christ: Led by Christa Cottone

"This fall, I used **Edward Sri's Into His Likeness** series for the first time. The participants and I quickly bonded -- we felt comfortable sharing our faith, especially in the Cozy Room, where our sessions were held. Conversations flowed naturally, and one prompt often sparked a lengthy discussion. After six weeks, the participants and I were better equipped to form ourselves as disciples and evangelize those around us. I look forward to leading a spring iteration of this series!" Christa Cottone

When You Pray - A Clear Path into a Deeper Relationship with Christ: Led by Norma Jahl

"I recently had the privilege of taking an exceptional class on the Eucharist that exceeded all my expectations. This course provided an enriching experience and heightened my understanding of liturgy, scripture, and specifically the Eucharist. Each week, Tanya's expertise was evident as she created an atmosphere of curiosity and exploration. My depth of understanding grew and has been reflected in my prayer life. I also felt the discussions fostered a sense of community among the participants. The class expanded my knowledge and guided me toward a deeper understanding of what it is to share in communion." Suzanne Levesque



"Though small, I found this group to be very inspiring. We shared our challenges and successes in our faith walk. The videos and accompanying workbook were excellent. I am looking forward to a future group." Into His Likeness participant



"My perspective on leading this group? One of profound privilege and wonder. It is a deep privilege to participate in these lovely individuals' spiritual growth and learn about God and prayer through the material presented and everyone's experiences, struggles, and wisdom. A sense of wonder in seeing God working in and through each person, being drawn closer to Him and one another.

The hunger for community is evident in this group's desire to keep meeting, no matter what. Father Paddy's saying, "If you want to go far, go together," is so true. It is meeting a real need in people to walk together towards Christ. We help and encourage one another, and the walk isn't so isolated. Our time together was the highlight of my week!" Norma Jahl

Strength & Hope Through Transitions

Transitions are not always easy and may often test our strength, patience, and resilience. Yet, in Christ, we know these challenges are the stepping stones to a brighter tomorrow, according to our Lord's plan.



We offer a special shoutout to our Music Ministry and, in a unique way, to Beth Vecchio and Q Furnald for their continued spirit of service, commitment, and love for our Lord, the Liturgy, and our parish community, especially as we journey through a transition in leadership of Music Director. We appreciate all you do to lift and fill our liturgical celebrations with the beautiful gift of music and praise!

Please continue praying for our search for a Music Director as we embrace the challenges and allow faith and hope to be our guiding light through this transition.

2023 Respect Life Raffle:
Thanks for your support!



The 2023 Respect Life Raffle winners are:

- Volvo, Theresa Petrucci, #179466, Bergen Cty.
- \$1000 ShopRite GC, Lois Jarmicki, #056476, Hunterdon Cty
- \$750 ShopRite GC, Curt Muklevicz, #180746, Ocean Cty
- \$500 ShopRite GC, Theresa Celli, #23535, Burlington Cty

Congratulations to the winners! Sorry, there are no winners from Morris County this year; however, Morris County was by far the #1 county fundraiser in the state. We thank you ever so much for your support of the 2023 New Jersey Right to Life Respect Life Raffle (\$1,123)!

Thank you, and God Bless you all!

*Stephen Perkowski, Raffle Committee
Morris County Right To Life*

Brown Scapular, one of the Marian Sacramentals

By Diane Byrne, Elementary Family Faith Coordinator

Many people wear shirts, hats, or other items to show their support for an organization or movement. This past Sunday, Michelle Blanchfield and her son Kyle wore shirts representing their colleges to show their support. Michelle explained that we can be part of Mary's team by wearing the scapular of Mount Carmel (the brown scapular).



The brown scapular originated with the religious community of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Palestine. Mary appeared to Saint Simon Stock and told him that anyone who wore the Carmelite scapular faithfully would go to heaven. Our patroness, Notre Dame of Mount Carmel, is the French name of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.



Brown scapulars were handed out to the children before Mass began so they could look at them while Michell and Kyle spoke and Fr. Paddy blessed them during the homily.



Family Faith: Mass Transit Conversations

(Comments reflect previous Sundays' celebrations)

What was one new insight the homily gave you?

"I am a gift to my parents."

"To prepare for anything in life, you must have the Holy Spirit in your life."

"God trusts you with gifts even when you aren't perfect."

"To always follow the rules!"

"We need to pray for recognition of our gifts so we can help build our community."

"Each of us has a gift, no matter how small, and we should share/multiply our gifts."

"We have a lot to look forward to. I need to call someone lonely."

"I need to make myself ready to meet Jesus."

"Our relationship with Jesus brings hope and help in darkness."

"We should call an elderly person and give them a smile on their face."

Was there something special you noticed at Mass today?

"We learned Father Paddy had mouth surgery from a childhood injury (punched)."

"The Virgin Mary has a birthday of September 8th, and you can eat vanilla cupcakes to celebrate."

"The priest was wearing crocs. This is the church in my beach town."

"I went to church in Oakland, NJ, to celebrate my grandpa turning 80. Me and my brother brought the gifts up with Grandpa - it was special!"

"The music was like listening to 95.5, and we loved it!" (Family attended 6 pm Mass)

"Fr. Paddy is healing from surgery. Hope he feels better soon."

"Fr. Alex's favorite movie is 'It's a Wonderful Life.'"

Parish Pastoral Council Seeking Nominations!

"PPC members will have the mind and heart of a Disciple of Christ, the common good of the entire parish of Notre Dame, and not be representative of only one narrow point of view. Members are called to be bridge-builders between different points of view of parishioners and the mission of Christ at Notre Dame. Every parishioner will have the opportunity to access members of the PPC."

Parish Pastoral Council Foundational Principles and Guidelines



To nominate a parishioner 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.

Let us ask for the Holy Spirit to guide our parish community and those in any way involved in this process of seeking, inviting, listening, and discerning a response to service in this valuable leadership body of our parish.

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

**Parishioner
Announcements**

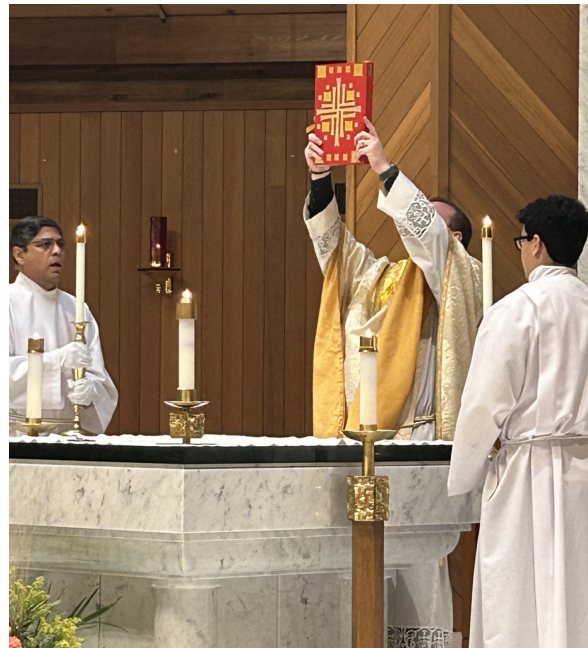
Memories that share our story...

Family Mass





11:30 am Mass





6:00 pm Mass



Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications

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