

Melissa Fasano

From: mail@flocknote.com on behalf of Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church
<mail@flocknote.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 1:44 PM
To: Melissa Fasano
Subject: Parish Update: February 6, 2024



Investing in Our Faith, Investing in Our Future

NOTE OF GRATITUDE

God's love certainly unites us!

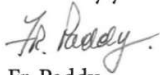
This is evident in the parish's response to our recent annual stewardship outreach. **THANK YOU!** I am humbled and grateful for your commitment to Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel, especially during challenging times. Through your commitment, our parish remains vibrant, engaged, and Christ-centered in the Eucharist and in serving one another.

God's work is never done! Your prayerful response, both materially and spiritually, is setting the groundwork for a path forward as we plan for the future of our parish and the continuation of critical ministries and service programs. Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel continues to grow as a strong, faith-filled stewardship community because of parishioners like you!

If you are not currently participating in Regular Offertory Giving, please call our parish office, and we will be happy to assist you. Our goal is to have 100% participation from our families.

I sincerely thank you for putting your faith into action through your sacrificial giving!

Gratefully yours in Christ,


Fr. Paddy

NOTRE DAME OF
MT. CARMEL CHURCH



Highlights

\$140,316

in additional offertory commitments
(contributions not yet realized)

241

households responded out of the
678 actively contributing financially

11

additional electronic
giving participants

We invite you to be a part of our mission!

Welcome

We offer a spirit of **WELCOME**, openness, and kindness to help individuals experience a sense of belonging. Whatever one's point of entry – a Mass, a ministry program or event, or a casual conversation, we strive to make that encounter a welcoming and transforming experience where God's grace can touch their lives with hope and a path toward spiritual growth and mission.

Build

Through the power of the Holy Spirit and the many opportunities we offer, we encounter Christ, grow as disciples, and help **BUILD** leaders of our community and the Church.

- Liturgical & Sacramental Celebrations
- Family Faith Formation & Children's Ministries
- Alpha, Cornerstone Retreats, Discipleship Groups
- Prayer Communities
- Music Ministry
- Small Communities (Men, Women, Marriage, Widows, etc.)

Send

In a spirit of mission and generosity, we **SEND** our members to serve through our many ministries and social outreach programs, sharing with those in need, His love in action.

- Home & Hospital Visits
- Food Rescue Ministry
- Operation Appalachia & Guatemala Outreach
- Angel Tree Outreach
- Journeys of Healing (i.e. Grief Support)

Women's Cornerstone: A Leadership Pipeline

This past weekend, the Women's Cornerstone XXIV Team welcomed 26 candidates to this year's retreat, **"Lord, Shine Your Light Upon Us."**



The retreat ended with the 5 pm Vigil Mass, where two participants, **Serina Signorello** and **Gerry Mahon**, shared about their Cornerstone experiences. Their witness speaks to the impact Cornerstone has in the lives of participants, regardless of generation or season of life.





Beyond the impact on the candidates' lives, Cornerstone is also a ministry supporting the parish's goal of best leadership practices and the development of new leaders. Several women who were candidates just a year or two ago found themselves co-facilitating small group discussions or leading subteams this past retreat.

The Women's Cornerstone leadership practices also call for Ministry Chairs to rotate every three years. This year, **Christa Cottone**, ministry co-chair with **Patty Strunck**, completed her third year as co-chair; **Patty Allocca** will serve as co-chair with **Patty Strunck**, leading the Cornerstone XXV team!

Below, Christa shares about her experience as Cornerstone sister and leader!



"Through Cornerstone, I have been gifted the sisters I never had; they have enriched my life in many ways. When I was asked to lead this ministry three years ago, I thought someone had made a mistake. There was no way anyone could pick me to be the leader. I don't even want to use the word "leader" to describe myself, but here I am, three retreats



later. I might've made mistakes along the way, but I learned from them and became a stronger person. I hope to become a mentor like the mentors I had. Their belief got me to this point. I still have work to do, but I'm blessed to have had this leadership opportunity at such a young age. I am so grateful the Lord introduced this community of faith warriors into my life. While I will miss having an active role in the ministry and meeting new candidates, I look forward to what's to come!" Christa Cottone

A Renewed Parish Pastoral Council

This past Fall, our Parish Leadership Team and the Pastoral Council worked together to renew the purpose and operating principles of our **Parish Pastoral Council**. In the renewed model, the council, in consultation with Fr. Paddy, will articulate the vision, mission, and strategies to guide our parish's health and growth, all in a Synodal spirit while lifting the voices and gifts of all in our faith community.



As part of this renewal, the council sought to grow its membership and begin a more formal process of membership rotation. The people of Notre Dame had the opportunity to nominate fellow parishioners or themselves; 20 parishioners were nominated. Guided by the Holy Spirit and in prayerful discernment, **11 nominees (including two teens)** were selected and accepted the call to join the existing members of the council. This past weekend, council members were introduced at the various Masses.



Let us keep in our prayers the Parish Pastoral Council, all of our parish leaders and ministers, that through the power of the Holy Spirit, we may serve our community and beyond with faith, passion, and humility, always discerning the will of God for the present and future of our parish and the Church.

Serving and Growing in Faith: Meet Aliyah Pagulayan

“Whatever one’s point of entry - Mass, a ministry program or event, or a casual conversation, we strive to make that encounter a transforming experience where

God's grace can touch their lives with hope and a path toward spiritual growth and mission."

Aliyah is a sophomore in high school and the daughter of Alan & Janet Pagulayan. The Pagulayan family joined our parish officially in 2019, although they had been engaged in parish life for several years before that. They can often be seen at Mass on weekends, taking up an entire pew: mom, dad, their four children, plus relatives who may happen to be visiting!

Aliyah and her dad approached me a couple of weeks ago after the 6 pm Mass. In a typically teen-like "quiet-around-adults manner," Aliyah asked if we needed help taking pictures of parish events. I jumped at the opportunity!! We are always thrilled to welcome new members to the Photography Ministry, which is an integral part of our Communications Strategy of sharing our stories of parish life. Plus, a young person seeking to serve? How inspiring is that!



Since this just happened after the 6 pm Mass, I had the opportunity to introduce Aliyah to some of our Youth Ministry teens who were getting ready to head downstairs for their LifeTeen session. I was overjoyed at the warm welcome the teens immediately offered Aliyah, along with the invitation to go downstairs. And to make a long story short, Aliyah has been joining in the LifeTeen sessions after Mass and will also be attending the upcoming Antioch Retreat! The Lord does lay "straight paths with crooked lines!" And let's not forget to give a shoutout to our Youth Ministry teens for living an authentic culture of welcome and invitation and cooperating with God's grace!



"Photography has always been one of my interests, but once I entered high school, through my design academy teacher, I became very passionate about it and fell in love with it! I am so grateful to be able to serve God through a medium I am passionate about. I love how, by taking these pictures, I am able to share my talent while also strengthening my relationship with God." Aliyah





Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

By Laura Balogh, Family Faith Director

This past Sunday, February 4, the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) ministry gathered for another adult formation session for those on the road to receive a sacrament of initiation. Experienced parishioners **Jim and Claire Matlon** lead this ministry, holding formation sessions on selected Sundays following the 11:30 am Mass.

Our group this year includes **Pranav Kapoor; Brandon Koth** (not pictured), accompanied by his wife Caroline; **Greta Unrath**, accompanied by her fiancé Bryan; **Jacy DiRienzo; Katie Conrad** (not pictured); and **Chelsea Colongon**.



Pranav has recently started his journey to receive all three sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation. In April 2024, he will undergo the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens (*the first liturgical rite in which inquirers express, and the Church accepts his intention to respond to God's call and follow the way of Jesus Christ*), and he will then receive the sacraments at the 2025 Easter Vigil Mass. The other participants (**Brandon, Greta, Jacy, Katie & Chelsea**) are considered candidates in the OCIA process (*since they have already been baptized*); they are receiving Christian formation of the sacraments of First Eucharist and/or Confirmation.

Deacon Eric and his wife, Debby, also shown in the above photo, were guest speakers at the January 21 OCIA session. They presented on the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation and shared their faith journey in the OCIA process years ago.

Please pray for those in adult formation as they continue the journey to receiving the Sacraments.

Celebrating Scout Sunday!

By Flo Chirichiello, Cub Scouts Pack 40 Cubmaster

We were blessed to have **Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts** from our community celebrate Scout Sunday this past February 4th at the Family Mass.



“A scout is reverent and has a duty to God.” It was so great to see all the scouts performing a special role and showing their duty to God during Mass, from welcoming and passing out song sheets to serving at the Altar, doing the readings, bringing up the gifts, and in the processional and recessional.

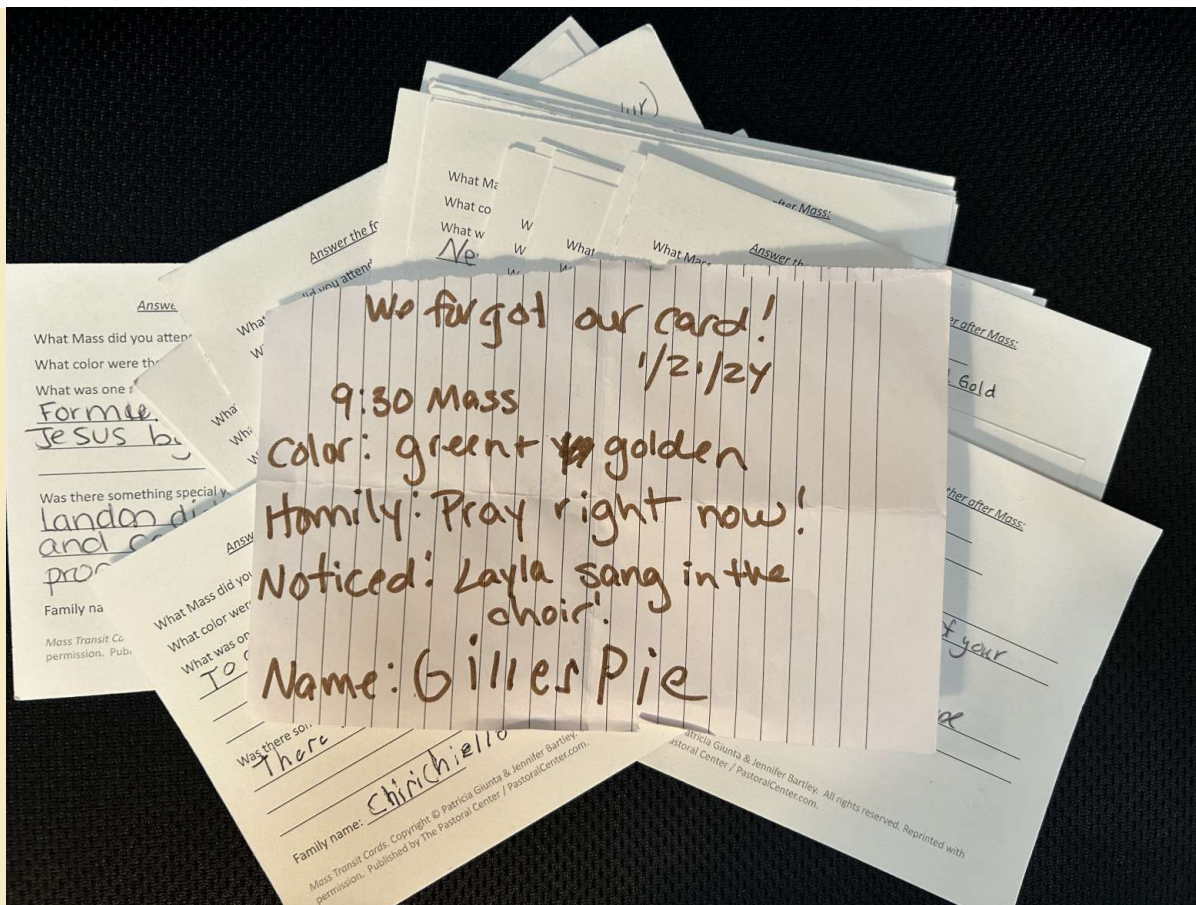




Pack 40 Cub Scouts are especially grateful because NDMC is our chartered organization. The Notre Dame community continues to support us with our den and pack meetings, pinewood derby, and community service projects like this Fall's Senior Bingo event. Thank you to the ND community for making our scouts feel so special!

Family Faith: Mass Transit Conversations

(Comments reflect previous Sundays' celebrations)



What was one new insight the homily gave you?

"We need to fall in love with Jesus now, not later."

"God is preparing you for curve balls; use the skills he gave you. Pray for your priests."

"Don't say later, it usually means never. Learn more about Jesus and make sure you do things for Jesus immediately like your best friend coming to your house."

"Jesus is present in priests, and Jesus has the ability to be everywhere all at once."

"This week is a time to pray for priests."

"Sometimes our names have to be called twice like when my parents call my name."

We get called by God through Faith Formation at home."

Was there something special you noticed at Mass today?

"No mass books, paper sheet instead."

"The boys thought it was "ironic" to see Fr. Alex wearing green & gold since the Packers lost the night before!"

"Joyful Noise is growing in size"

"After mass, men were giving out little roses."

"My friends were greeters."

"There was a man playing the guitar instead of the piano today."

"Lots of new people singing."

"A couple renewed their wedding vows."

"I saw my friend Rosalia. I noticed a new priest with a green sash sitting next to Father Paddy."

"Fr Alex talked about God being in everybody. You can see God each day in people's hearts"

"Striving to be disciples of Jesus."

"The fact that Jonas first doubted God about going to Nineva and hesitated and how we can try harder to say "yes" to God."

"Father Owen gave us special blessings after Mass (family attended St. Vincents)"

"Grandma & Grandpa came to mass with us!"

"I love looking at the gold house (tabernacle)!"

"The kids loved passing out the songbooks!"

"There is a different singer with a guitar"

This Week's Mass & Lamp Intentions

Parishioner Announcements

Memories that share our story...

5 pm Mass:







Family Mass:







6 pm Mass





Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications

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