

Melissa Fasano

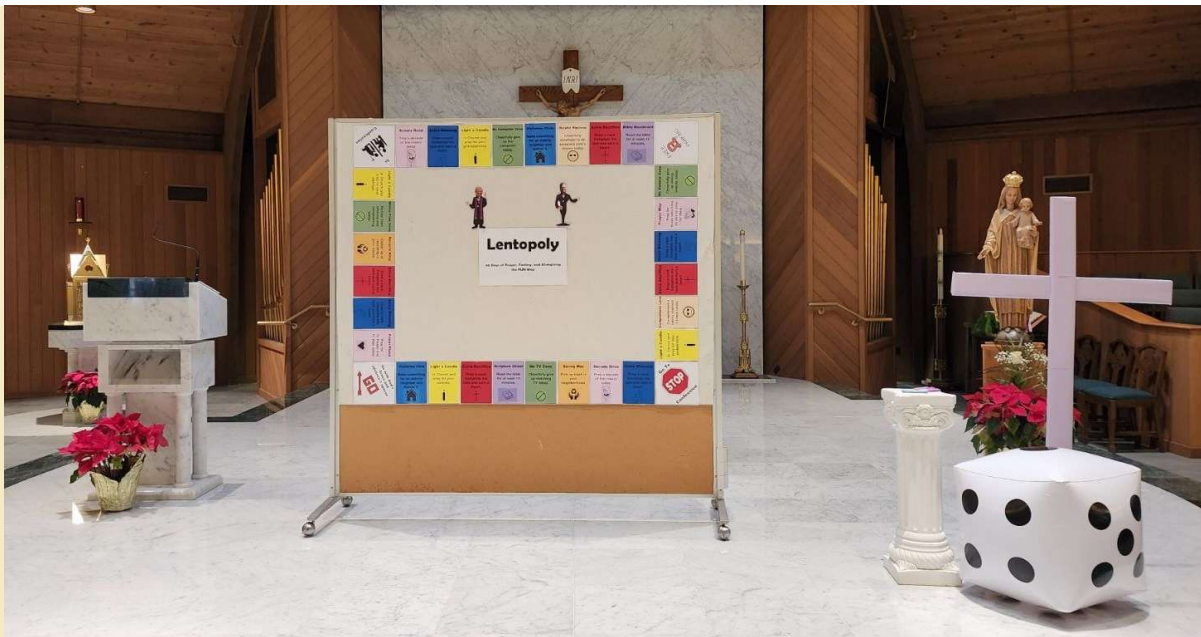
From: mail@flocknote.com on behalf of Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church
<mail@flocknote.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 3:36 PM
To: Melissa Fasano
Subject: Parish Update: February 13, 2024



Lentopoly: It's Like Monopoly but for Lent!

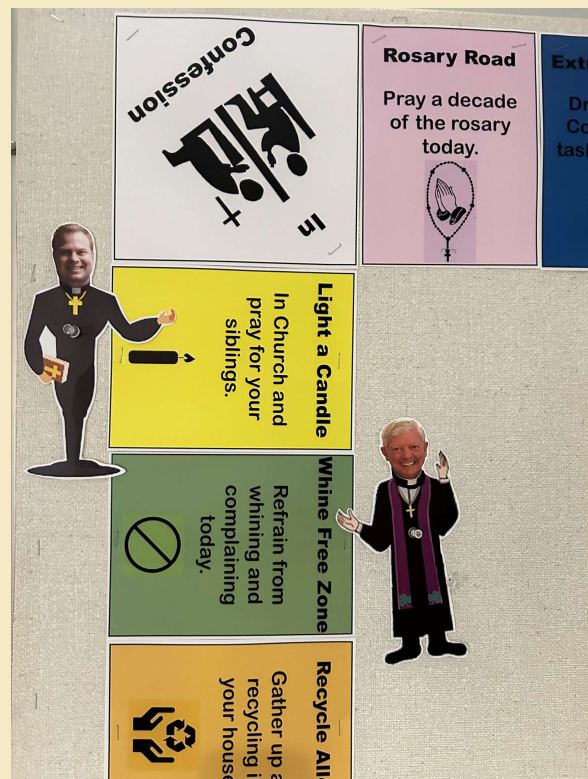
By Diane Byrne, Elementary Family Faith Coordinator

This past Sunday, we kicked off our Family Faith Lenten series, **Lentopoly!** Lentopoly is like Monopoly, but instead of buying property, we will complete sacrifices and blessings for Lent.



Each Sunday through Lent, we will have a round of Lentopoly before Mass begins. Here is how it "rolls:"

Our large Lentopoly board will be on the sanctuary before Mass begins. On the board is an image of Fr. Paddy and one Fr. Alex, which will be used as the two playing pieces.



Each Sunday, two children will roll a die and help move the images of Fr. Alex and Fr. Paddy on the playing board. (One child for Fr. Alex, one for Fr. Paddy.)

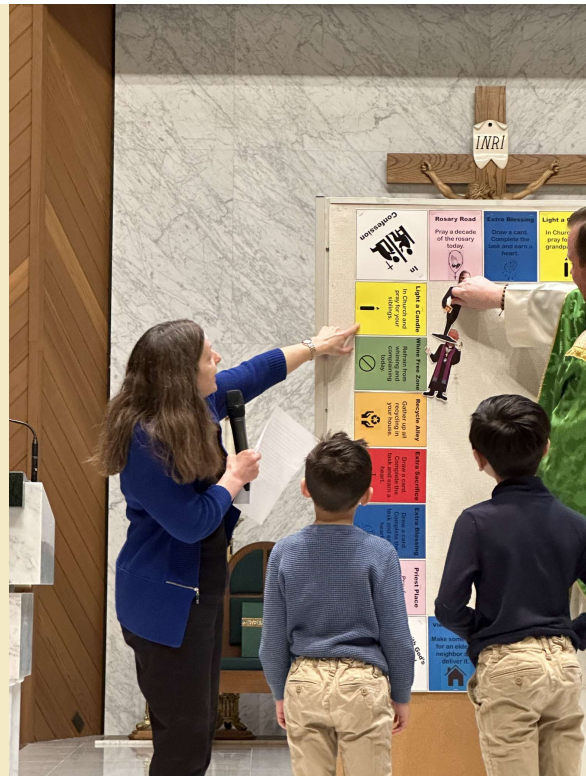


Based on where Fr. Paddy and Fr. Alex land, families are invited to complete a task (a blessing or sacrifice). For example, if Father Paddy lands on **"Complement a family member three times in one day"** and Fr. Alex lands on **"Read the Bible for fifteen minutes,"** families can complete either one during the week. They are also invited to share a picture of their family completing their lenten action.



Those "sticking to the rules" for the week will earn a heart sticker to place on the cross in the gathering space.

This past Sunday, the landed spots were *"No whining or complaining for one day"* and *"Light a candle in church and pray for your siblings, cousins, or friends."*



And we are already "hearing" about the great Lenten works of our families at play!

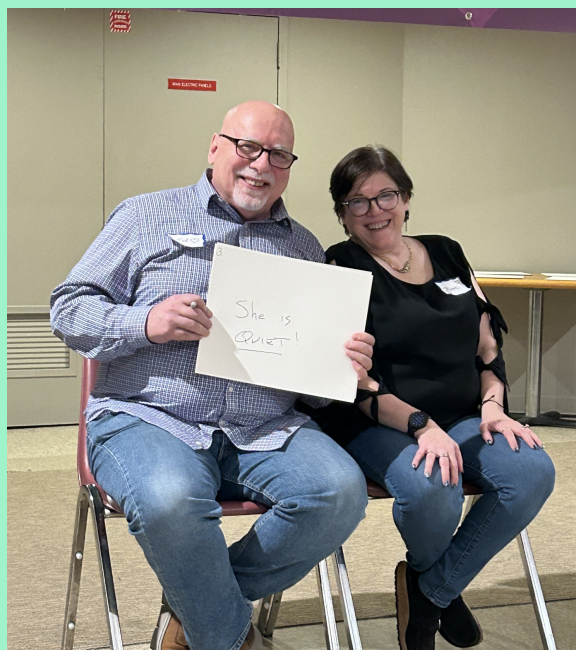


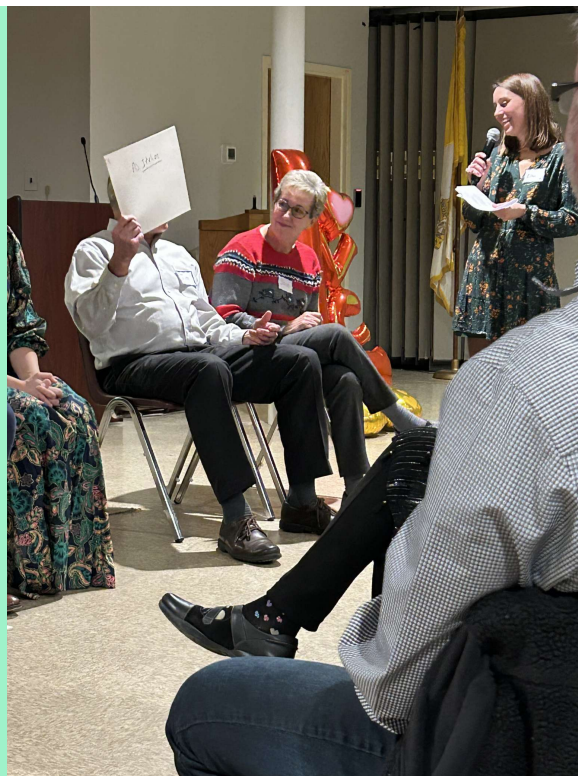
Special thanks to all involved in making this wonderfully creative opportunity available to our young families so they can grow in faith and make their Lenten journey more meaningful and fruitful. *#InvestinginOurFaithInvestinginOurFuture*

The Not-So-Newlywed Game

"Father Alex opened the evening with an important reminder for us all: 'God wants us to have fun!' Events that encourage laughter and fellowship, like The Newlywed Game, keep our spirits uplifted, make joyful memories for all, and bring the parish community together for much-needed revelry." Brianne and Robert Lee

Our Marriage Ministry hosted the annual "Not-so-Newlywed Game" this past Saturday evening! The event offered the full crowd of participants, married and single, a wonderful opportunity for food, fellowship, and lots (lots!) of laughter, thanks to the clever (😄) questions and our wonderful and lighthearted contestants: **Dan & Alicia Bozza, Ed & Barbara Katona, Brianne & Robert Lee, and Jim & Claire Matlon.**





*"We were surprised to see such a good turnout for the "Not So Newlywed Game." As one of the contestant couples, we hoped we would provide a few laughs. We had to dig in the memory bank for some of the questions and managed a few correct responses to avoid being totally clueless. We enjoyed socializing with parishioners we had not met before. It was interesting to hear their stories while sharing good food and a few glasses of wine. In fact, we are planning to get together with one of the couples from our table."
Claire & Jim Matlon*



"This was our first real date night since having our son almost a year ago. The Not So Newlywed Game was not only entertaining and a great way to strengthen friendships, but it helped spark both



lighthearted and serious discussions between my husband and me. The four couples had us laughing throughout the evening! Not to mention, the food was worthy of high praise by us both!" Jessika & John Caruso

"The Newlywed Game event was so much fun, and we felt so welcomed by everyone. We feel so blessed to be part of such a warm and vibrant community!" Natalie & Kevin Van Denmark

"We had a very nice experience at the Not so Newlywed Game last Saturday! From the moment we arrived, the atmosphere was lively. The participants were hilarious, which added an extra layer of enjoyment to the evening. My husband and I both had a fantastic time, and we are eager to attend future events!" Betsa & Joe Silvestri



"We loved connecting with fellow parishioners who felt like old friends. There's something to be said about sharing light-hearted fun and laughs with people you have an immediate connection with because of shared beliefs and faith. We laughed, enjoyed people's stories of how they met, ate yummy sandwiches, and surprised ourselves with how well we would have done if we were contestants! Grateful to the marriage ministry for all they do and for fun events like this!" Margey & John Daily

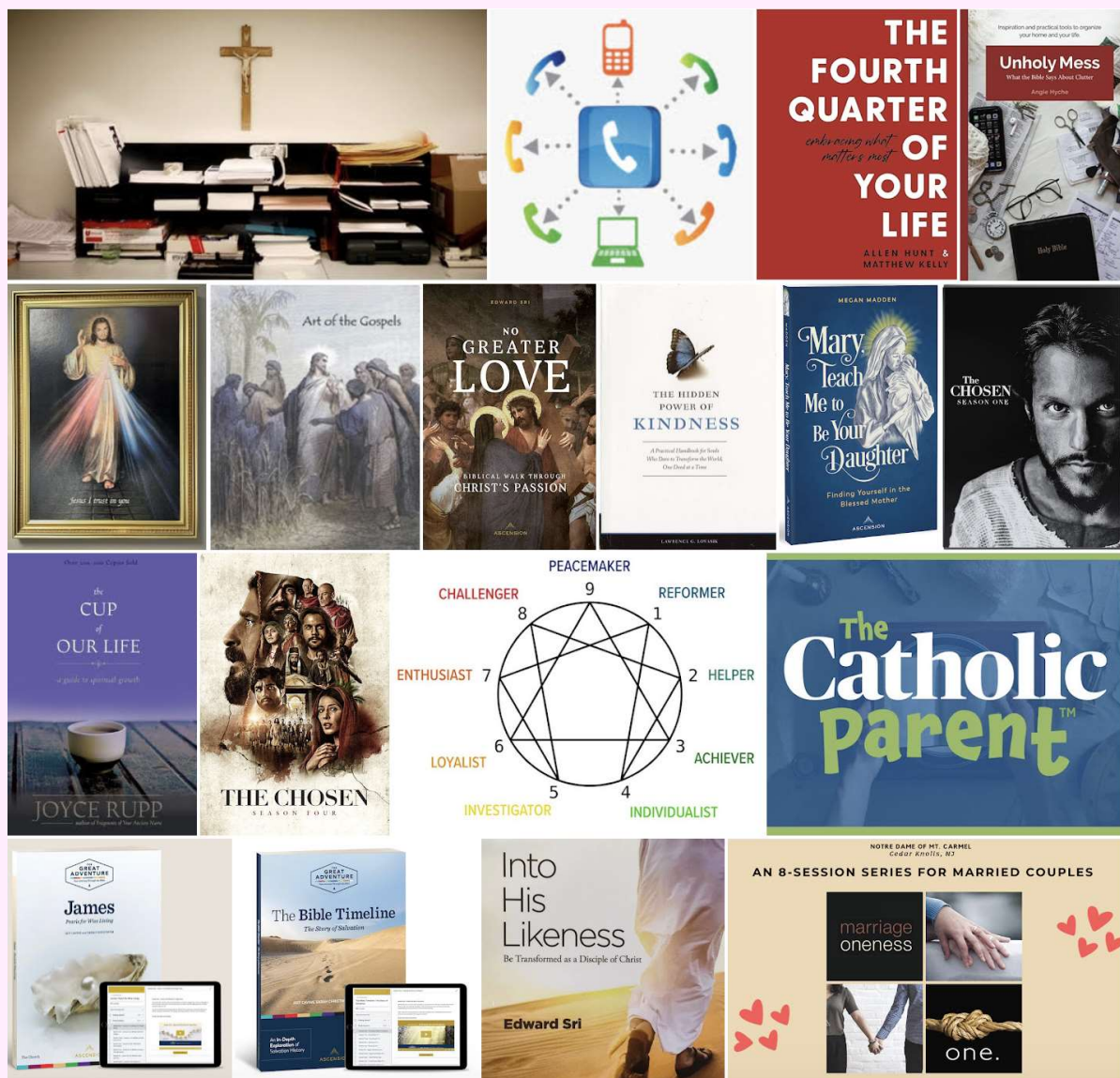


Special thanks to our Marriage Ministry for hosting such an awesome parish event and helping widen the opportunities to grow in friendship and strengthen our culture of welcome and hospitality!



Discipleship Groups: Praying for Our Lenten Journey

It is always exciting to begin the planning process for Discipleship Groups in our faith community, especially in preparation for Lent. Each year, a group of our faithful missionary disciples step up to lead the small faith-sharing groups. We welcome seasoned leaders and those journeying as leaders for the first time (at least in this context). For this Lenten season, these generous leaders are leading **19 DG opportunities, and over 160 folks** have taken up the invitation, some even registering for more than one group.



Last Wednesday, a number of the leaders gathered for a light dinner and fellowship, as well as to lift in prayer all the DG groups, their leaders, and participants (by name), and to also pray for our clergy who will shepherd us, especially in the liturgy and sacraments, through this coming Lenten season: Fr. Paddy, Fr. Alex, Deacon Joe Harris, and Deacon Eric Kispert.



Some of the groups are at capacity, but some options are still open for you to consider! Visit our website [HERE](#) and register today!

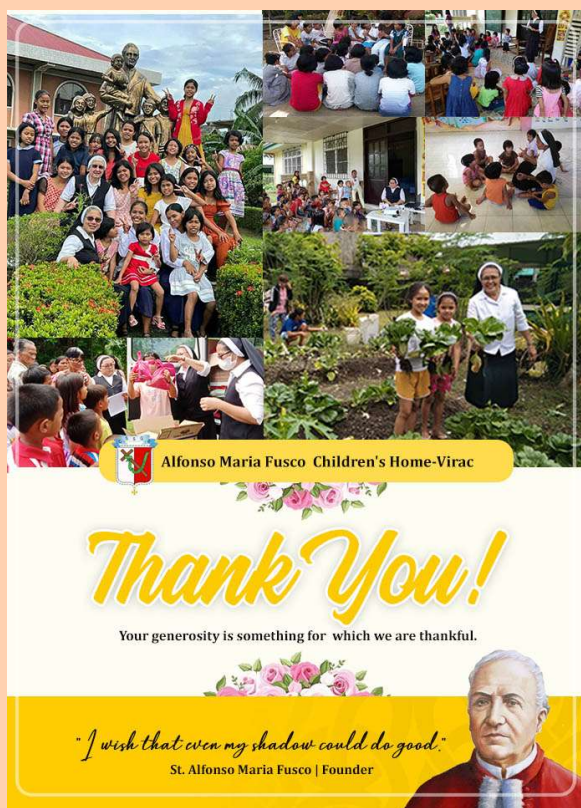
Missionary Co-Op

By Melissa Fasano, Parish Secretary

Every August, our parish participates in a collection for the **Missionary Cooperation Plan**. This past year, we collected for the **Congregation of the Sisters of St. John the Baptist, Philippine Vice-Province**. Sr. Maria Lourdes S. Avila, CSSJB, Vice-Provincial Superior, reached out to our parish recently to extend a heartfelt thank you for the **\$5,797** we raised to help their mission.

Their community runs four children's homes on three islands near the Philippines, serving poor and marginalized children, youth, and their families. The homes

provide residential and medical care to these impoverished and sick children as well as a formal education. At the same time, they provide non-formal education to the children's parents. They work with volunteer doctors and nurses who provide medical care and conduct outreach programs such as medical missions to villages and relief operations during natural disasters. As you can see by the smiling faces in these pictures, these sisters are doing the work of Jesus every day!



Thanks for your generosity in supporting the Missionary Cooperation Plan, specifically the Sisters of St. John the Baptist this past year. Let us continue to pray for them and the families whom they serve.

Sisters Witness to Our Confirmation Families & Youth Ministry Teens

By Laura Balogh, Family Faith Director

On Sunday, February 4, our parish welcomed three religious sisters, **Sr. Natalie**, **Sr. Kaitlin**, and **Sr. Lucia**, at our Confirmation Level 2 session. They are Second-Year Novices with the Salesian Order, residing at the Sacred Heart Center in Newton, NJ.



The sisters spoke to our Confirmation families, catechists, and Youth Ministry members about why Confirmation is important and how they will receive the fullness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit upon receipt of the sacrament. They spoke about the various vocations, such as married life, single life, and religious life, and how they are of equal value to God.





The session included time for prayer and reflection, referencing the reading from the Old Testament on the Call of Samuel, with stress on the passage, “Speak, Lord, your Servant is listening.” To determine God’s path for us, we need to listen for His voice in the silence of our hearts.

There was also an opportunity for Q & A. **Click [HERE](#) for some responses from the Sisters on questions submitted by some of the participants!**

I was moved by this session as the young sisters of Salesian explained their mission and daily life rituals. I commend all those who know their path at a young age. The Confirmation candidates were moved by the sisters’ testimonies and commitment to their faith. Allyson Vitale



“Cristian and I were both amazed at the faith and courage these young ladies had to follow their calling into this specific segment of Salesian Sisters of Saint John Bosco. They were all great representatives of the love of Jesus and provided their services to our young confirmation candidates. We enjoyed the examples of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. I appreciate all your work getting great content for the program.” Angelo Pecoraro



We are grateful for the sisters who offered such a powerful witness to all present. The opportunity to learn, reflect, and pray was a blessing to all. Please pray for our

Confirmation candidates as they continue their formation to the sacrament in May and for the sisters, who will make their first vows in August.

Family Faith: Mass Transit Conversations

(Comments reflect previous Sundays' celebrations)

What was one new insight the homily gave you?

"Priests help us to get closer to Jesus by teaching us. We, in turn, have to pray for our priests."

"We all should forgive, and we all have so many purposes."

"Jesus is everywhere, and Priests help by standing in for Jesus. We will pray for priests this week."

"To fall in love with God by learning about Him, listening to Him, and praying to Him."

"When you experience the presence of evil or are fearful of something, turn to God."

"God entered into a messy / "not perfect" family. Love is the most important thing."

"We have to spread the word of God."

"The Good News is when Jesus comes alive on Easter."

"Jesus is a teacher & healer."

"We need to get to know Jesus to treat Him like a friend, someone we know."

"Christ can heal any lack of hope or pain. We can be healed like Job."

"The Deacon visited the holy land."

"You never know when or where you may hear God's voice."

Was there something special you noticed at Mass today?

"Q was not there as he was sick. His dad was there playing the guitar, and it sounded great!"

"The Boy Scouts walked in at the beginning of Mass today."

"The children singing in the choir so beautifully."

"Great to see everybody & their families!"

"Families can be made of co-workers, friends, members of NDMC."

"We sat next to the music!"

"There were a lot of cub scouts, including me."

"I was looking at the pictures in the stained glass windows."

"There were Boys & Girls Scouts"

"The divider for confession in Kids Kingdom"

"We had a guest priest for the homily after the Men's Cornerstone retreat"

"Nora won!"

"A cute baby."

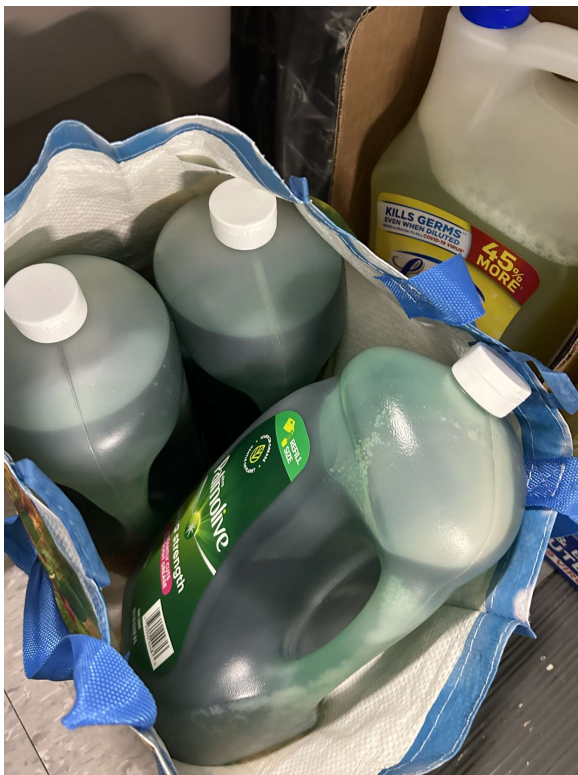
"2 men spoke at the end of church, and we laughed."

This Week's Mass & Lamp Intentions

Parishioner Announcements

Memories that share our story...

*Serving at the Missionary Sisters of
Charity*



*Thanks to a special supporter for
donating \$ monthly for cleaning
supplies, and to our Food Rescue*

Ministry for bread donations - the Sisters and those they serve greatly appreciate it!

7:30 am Mass



Family Mass







6 pm Mass



Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications

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