Melissa Fasano

From: mail@flocknote.com on behalf of Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church

<mail@flocknote.com>

Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 5:45 PM

To: Melissa Fasano

Subject: Parish Update: February 20, 2024

Parish Update

February 20, 2024

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11



This past weekend, via a Flocknote and at all Masses, Fr. Paddy announced that he will be retiring on June 29, 2024. Click <u>HERE</u> for the announcement, in case you may have missed it.

Our Diocese of Paterson is seeking parishioner feedback as an important component of the process of appointing a new Pastor here at Notre Dame. Please take the opportunity to prayerfully offer your feedback, and please encourage members of your household to complete the form (also available on our website's homepage). Click the button below to access the form.

Pastor Appointment

Let us continue to pray for Fr. Paddy and our parish community as we journey through this transition always knowing with great faith and conviction that our Lord holds us all in the palm of His hand.

Parishioner Feedback

Daughters of Grace Seeking to Connect Young Moms!

Since its inception, the Daughters of Grace women's ministry has sought to offer "connection" opportunities to all women, regardless of where they find themselves spiritually speaking, to begin or further their spiritual journey. Seeing the visible "absence" of younger women in many parish events and programs intended for women, initiatives "calling" these younger women is one of the ministry's priorities.



Nathalie Van Demark and **Jessika Caruso** are two of the women who have been part of the Daughters of Grace planning sessions. Their idea of offering opportunities where there are no long-term commitments or added responsibilities for the already busy young moms is being "played out" in a **"Meet and Greet Playgroup" this coming Saturday, February 24, at 2:00 pm in the Shepherd's Call Room.** They made a personal invitation this past Sunday at the 9:30 am Family Mass.

"This initiative is important to me because, as a mother of young children, I find myself seeking a community of mothers who share similar values. What is better than making friendships with the blessings of the Holy Spirit?

I hope for the young mothers of our parish to form long-lasting relationships and find spiritual and emotional support throughout different stages of motherhood and life." Nathalie



All moms with newborns or toddlers are welcome! Please invite those in your life to join in this wonderful opportunity! "It was painful and isolating for me to move to a new town, have a difficult pregnancy, and navigate infancy during the past few years. It was also very joyfilled as I received many surprises and blessings from God at our parish. I know every woman has her own story and wants to hear that she is not alone. I have made some amazing friends in the parish, and I want to help give other women the same opportunity to foster intimate friendships while feeling open to talk about their struggles and faith journeys with one another.

I hope this playgroup helps young moms feel less isolated and part of a tight-knit community. I hope we can all model Christ's love for each other and go beyond surface-level conversations to the deep stuff of faith. Eventually, I pray the young moms in our parish can support each other through those late-night texts, struggles, and life milestones. I often hear Fr. Paddy say, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." We want to go far - all the way to Heaven - and help each other and our children get there." Jessika

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist Leadership Gratitude and Welcome!

Parishioner **Lisa Wallburg** has been wonderfully generous, sharing her time, talent, and treasure in several ministries and efforts in our parish throughout the years. Shortly after Fr. Paddy became our pastor, Lisa stepped up to lead our Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist (EMs) ministry. In her role, Lisa shepherded the ministry with great faith and care even through the most challenging times of COVID-19! This past January, Lisa stepped down as leader of the EMs.



"I continue to volunteer with local nonprofit groups, including a leadership position with Impact100 Garden State. Service is very important to me, both at home, in my faith, and in the community, and I feel blessed to be able to do so. The bonus is the many amazing people put in my path along the way. While I am stepping down as ministry chair, I will continue serving as an EM." Lisa Wallburg

We are deeply grateful for Lisa's leadership and long-term commitment to this ministry.

Following Lisa's recommendation, Fr. Paddy invited **Todd Kempf** to lead the EM Ministry. We warmly welcomed Todd as the new leader of the EMs this past January.

"I have been a parishioner of Notre Dame of Mount Carmel for over 40 years. I have a special place for the Notre Dame community as I met my wife, Cathy, on an Antioch retreat, and we were married here in 1994 by Father Jude. God blessed us with three beautiful children, Jessica, Daniel, and Ryan, whom we raised in the church.

After I made a Cornerstone weekend several years ago, God called me to become a Eucharistic Minister. I am truly blessed to be able to give my fellow parishioners the Precious Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

I look forward to guiding the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist ministry and am forever grateful to Lisa for her leadership, mentorship, and devotion!" Todd Kempf



Marriage Oneness: Take the Journey

One of our main goals as a Church and as a faith community is to nurture and support marriages and families. The Lord blesses our sacramental unions, but as in all other aspects of faith, we have to do our part. In the busyness of life, work, children, commitments, etc., nurturing our marriages may easily fall through the waste side.

We are blessed to have a thriving Marriage Ministry offering opportunities for married couples to experience support, community, and mentorship, as well as events and programs that provide practical skills to help couples fulfill their sacramental vows. One of those opportunities is again coming up **this Friday**,

February 23rd: Marriage Oneness:

AN 8-SESSION SERIES FOR MARRIED COUPLES





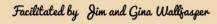




The hope of deep, soul-level harmony is why we get married in the first place. But oneness doesn't just happen. Couples make it happen. Regardless of how long you have been married, join us:

> Fridays, February 23 - April 19, 2024* 7:00 - 9:00 pm in Room 201

*We will not meet on Good Friday, March 29th









"We truly enjoyed the Marriage Oneness Group 2023. The group leaders created a great atmosphere and helped guide the group to embrace their "Marriage Oneness" and spirituality. The sessions help to reaffirm how to continue to build a strong relationship that will last a lifetime. The program also reminded us to keep God in our marriage and love and cherish each other. We highly recommend the program to any couple." Vincent & Jill

"We have learned that we must be intentional about nurturing our marriage in all aspects of our relationship and that we must also work at resolving issues that tend to remain unresolved. The program offered us a safe setting where we could learn from experts, share with other couples at various stages of marriage, and were able to open up with each other." Ken & Cristina

"*Joe and I can attest to the beauty of this* program. We had been married 15 years the first time we participated as a couple, and because it had such an impact on us, we went on to lead it the following year. It is transformational in helping you develop communication, which is essential to all the other aspects of your marriage." Joe & Ann

Knights in Our Community: Annual Free Throw Contest

By Dennis Fashano

On January 27th, the Knights Council 6904 held their annual Free Throw Contest. It is part of the statewide contest consisting of 4 levels, concluding with the state finals. Boys and girls, ages 8-14, are eligible to participate.



This year, 13 contestants from Hanover advanced to the regional contest and are one win from going to the K of C State Championship! Pictured above are some of these winners, along with Father Alex, Free Throw chairman Ralph Cetrulo, and Grand Knight Mark Kearney.

Family Faith: Our Lenten Traditions

By Diane Byrne, Elementary Family Faith Coordinator

On Sunday, before Fr. Paddy's and Fr. Alex'd images were moved on our Lentopoly board, **the Cohan family** shared their **Lenten Family Traditions with us.**



The Cohans will have a busy season of Lent! They celebrated Fat Tuesday by eating pancakes for dinner and lots of ice cream for dessert.

During Lent, they give up eating sweats, fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and refrain from eating meat on Fridays.

Jen is following Hallow's app Pray 40 challenge, and Mackenzie, Braeden, and Kyliegh are listening to the children's Pray 40 Challenge.

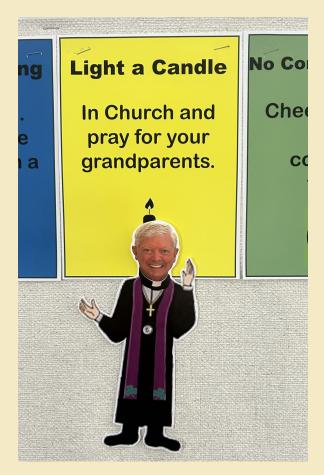






The family is also completing the Jesus Tree Lenten Devotionals for families. During the Triduum, the family attends Holy Thursday services and the Living Stations on Good Friday.

And on the Lentopoly front...









Pathways Mercy: Family Reflections

By Laura Balogh, Director of Family Faith Formation

This year, our Middle School and Confirmation Level 1 families are experiencing the home-based Pathways *Mercy* resources as part of their formation process. Mercy teaches all about the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Following each lesson, which is done at home through Family Meetings, each family is asked to provide an online reflection or photo demonstrating how they are living out that Work of Mercy. We wanted to share some of these reflections with you!

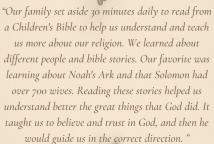


"Our family lived out this work of mercy by going through our closets and finding any clothes that we didn't wear or didn't fit into anymore. We then organized bags of these clothes to donate to the Military Order of the Purple Heart. My family's plan to live out this work of mercy in the future is to go through our clothes more often so veterans and people in their families who need them can have clothes."



The East Family

CORPORAL & SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY





The Fehir Family

CORPORAL & SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY



"We keep in touch with our 87-year-old great aunt, who cannot get out often. We like to visit with her and bring her chocolate milkshakes. The visits bring joy to both her and us!"



The White Family

CORPORAL & SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY



"If a family member is in need of a blessing, my grandfather sacrifices one of his favorite foods so that Jesus will help the person get better. He will give up this food for the rest of his life. He has given up coffee, everything bagels, chocolate chip cookies, and more, but he likes to keep it private, so we don't know what else."



The Crivella Family

CORPORAL & SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY



"In the last few months, we have helped a homeless person our Indonesian friends met in the Plainsboro area. We help him find shelter and collect some money to get him a gift card for food and a cell phone. We will continue helping other homeless people that we encounter."



The Susilo Family

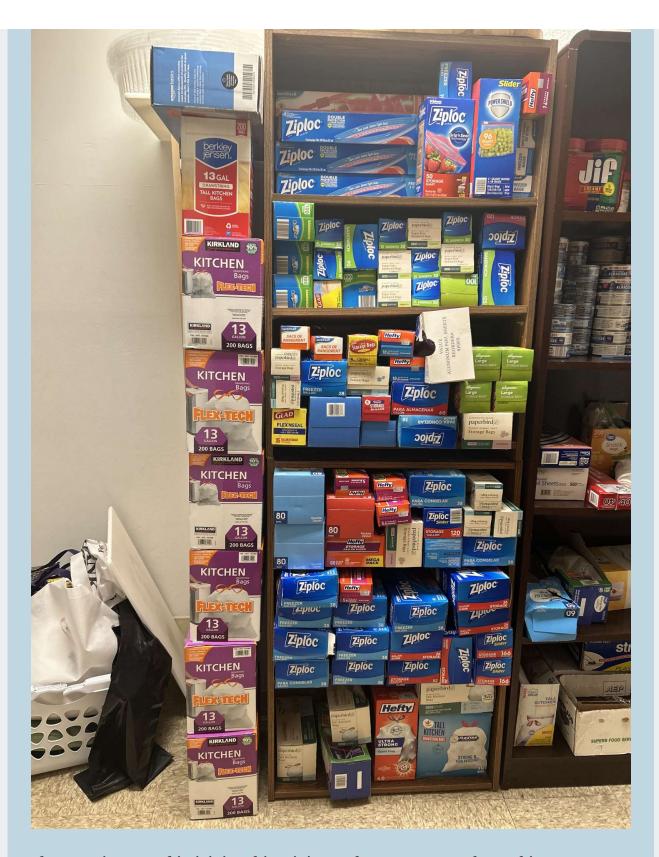
This photo from the Lukis family reflects the work of mercy of "Offering Drink to the Thirsty." The family left a basket outside on their porch for delivery people who needed a drink and/or snack to sustain them during their long workday!



Thanks from our Food Rescue Ministry!

By Beth Vecchio, Food Rescue Ministry Chair

The Food Rescue Ministry is very thankful for the generosity of the parish with regard to the storage bag drive last week. Over 150 boxes of storage bags were received, enabling the continued work of this ministry, which supports the many local agencies that feed the food-insufficient in our community.











Family Faith: Mass Transit Conversations

(Comments reflect previous Sundays' celebrations)

What was one new insight the homily gave you?

"Things change fast."

"Welcome all people who are lonely."

"Help everyone so they know God loves them."

Was there something special you noticed at Mass today?

"Fr. Alex is a pilot."

"Fr. Alex has a new mustache."

"There was a Lentopoly board game."

"The pianist sang a solo."

"Be kind to everyone, even if they have koodies."

"Fr. Paddy talked about helping and used Job as an example."

We need to spend time with him. Pray now and not later because later means never."
"Think of something special to do for Iesus

"Think of something special to do for Jesus for Lent."

"Do you ever wonder why you do what you do?"

"Fr. Alex talked about false Gods and compared them to influencers today."

"You should welcome everyone, especially those that are alone...even bullies."

"Jesus cured many who were sick."

"There are still lepers today."

"Persevere."

"Fr. Paddy did not bless or shake hands with the people carrying the gifts."

"There was a new guitar player. He played very well."

"Sandy sang in the Joyful Noise Choir for the first time."

"All of the Scouts."

"Kids wore Scout uniforms."

"Fr. Alex blessed Deacon Joe and Maria."

"There was a guitarist."

"I really liked the song Q sang."

"That I got to read."

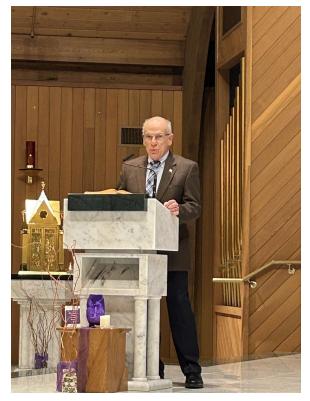
"No"

This Week's Mass & Lamp Intentions

Parishioner Announcements

Memories that share our story...

7:30 am Mass









Family Mass



















6 pm Mass









Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications



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