

Cristina Folan

From: mail@flocknote.com on behalf of Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church
<mail@flocknote.com>
Sent: Monday, December 6, 2021 3:24 PM
To: Cristina Folan
Subject: Parish Update: December 6, 2021



Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

O, Mary

CONCEIVED WITHOUT SIN
PRAY FOR US WHO HAVE
RECOURSE TO THEE.

Tuesday, Dec. 7:
Vigil Mass at 5:30 pm

Wednesday, Dec. 8:
Masses at 7:30 am, 12 pm*
and 5:30 pm

**Also livestreamed*

Advent & Christmas Schedule

Investing in
Our Faith,
Investing in
Our Future

NOTRE DAME OF
MT. CARMEL
CHURCH

CEDAR KNOLLS, NJ

We are encouraged by the results of our recent *Investing in Our Faith, Investing in Our Future* initiative. We are beginning to see signs that our Sunday offertory collections are growing through the generosity of many parishioners. Thank you so very much to all who have chosen to participate in this essential program!

We count on everyone's participation. If you have not done so already, please consider taking the necessary steps to increase your Offertory Giving. If you do not remember what you have committed to or need assistance with online giving, please visit our website (click on GIVING) or contact the parish office.

Your generosity shows your willingness, as a faithful steward, to be a part of the ongoing mission of our parish.

ND Creche/Nativity Display: Don't Miss it!

What a wonderful opportunity to invite family, friends, neighbors, or co-workers to join you for Mass and then experience in the Upper Room and Gathering Space a beautiful display of nativity scenes from our parishioners, reflecting the beauty of the birth of Christ through the eyes of various cultures and family stories.



There is still time for you to add your nativity to the display! Please fill out the form [HERE](#) and bring it to our parish office with your nativity by this Wednesday!

Journeying with our Young Families

The Eucharist is the Source and Summit of our Catholic faith. As such, welcoming and engaging young families in the celebration of the Family Mass is of utmost priority in our renewed model of the Elementary Faith Formation program here at Notre Dame.



A team of lay leaders (*Michelle Blanchfield, Angelo Pecoraro, Cherylan Davies, and Teresa Elko*) works very closely with Diane Byrne, Coordinator of Elementary Family Faith, and Fr. Alex, the spiritual director and principal celebrant of the Family Mass.

Themes are developed based on the different liturgical seasons, holy days, and special church celebrations, such as the most recent Year of St. Joseph.



"Let the children come to me." Mt 19:14 Opportunities for participation during Mass deliver the message that children are primary participants in the liturgical celebrations and encourage active engagement with the liturgy. These include: welcoming people and handing out music programs, serving at the altar, proclaiming the readings, the Prayers of the Faithful, leading hand motions through songs, participating in the children's choirs, etc. These are beautiful ways for children to learn and grow in their faith, becoming missionary disciples to their friends and families.

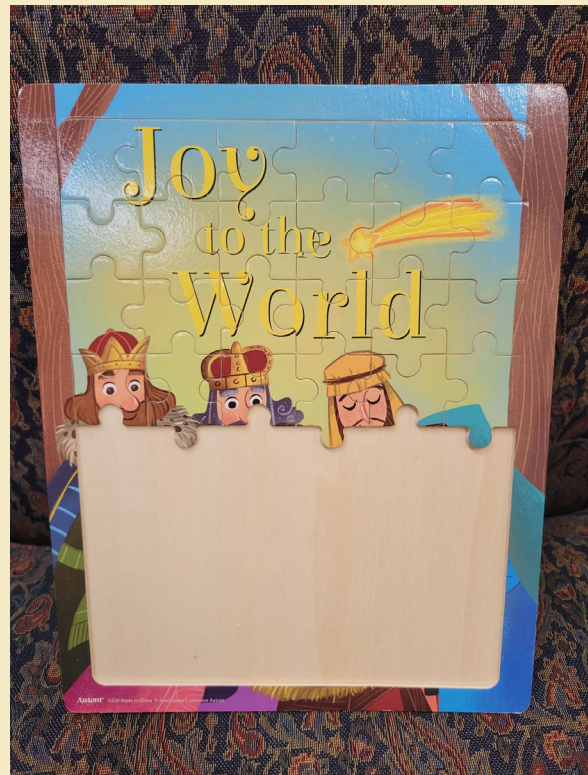


Families are also invited throughout the year to participate in activities at the church or the local area, such as the recent pilgrimages to St. Joseph parishes and the Jesse Tree Family Event this past Saturday.





Bringing it home and beyond! The catechesis shared during Mass and other Family Faith activities is reinforced and carried further to the Domestic Church, with planned activities to encourage conversation, prayer, and action at home and in the families' daily living. For example, on the First Sunday of Advent, children were given a puzzle frame after Mass along with the first set of puzzle pieces; each Sunday of Advent, they collect an additional set of puzzle pieces to complete their puzzle in time for Christmas. Their waiting in anticipation to complete the puzzle helps them connect to our waiting in the fulfillment of the promise of Jesus.

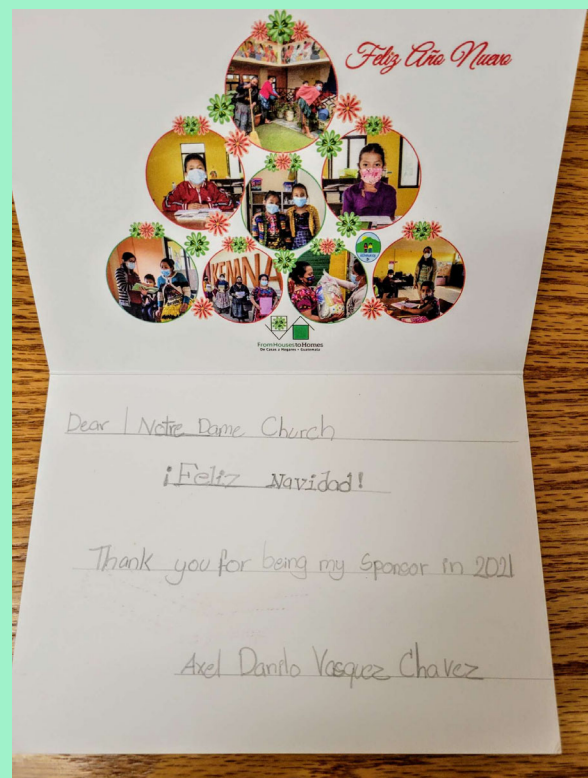


Investing in our Faith, Investing in Our Future! We are grateful for the gifts of time, talent, and treasure of so many in our community that, through the Holy Spirit's power, continue to bless our congregation with visible fruitfulness in the lives of our young families! So please invite families you know to come and partake of the good things the Lord has done for us!

A Special Christmas Message:
Feliz Navidad from Alex Danilo

We received a beautiful Christmas card and update from Alex Danilo, the child our parish sponsors at the From Houses to Homes - Guatemala Kemna 'Oj School. Danilo just completed the 4th grade with a GPA of 88. His favorite subjects are Art, Language, and Natural Sciences. He loves to read, draw pictures, make crafts and learn about the universe. He is also working hard in improving pronunciation in both English and his native language of Kaqchikel.

The From Houses to Homes organization and the Notre Dame Guatemala Outreach Ministry are deeply grateful for the continued support of our brothers and sisters in Guatemala.



St. John the Baptist Cathedral: Did you know?

by Family Faith Director Laura Balogh

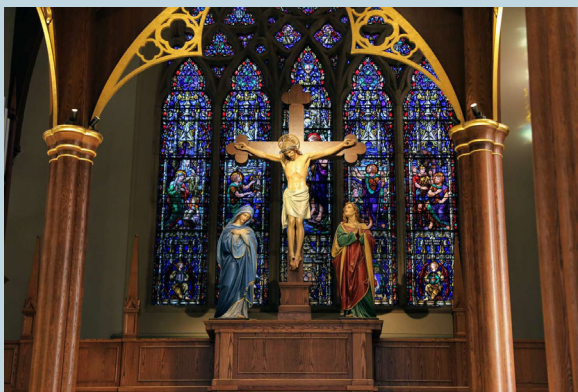
This past Saturday afternoon, December 4, a few families from the Middle School and Confirmation Prep Faith Formation enjoyed a special treat—a guided private tour of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ, by the Rector, Msgr. Eugene Sylva and Fr. Cesar Jaramillo, Parochial Vicar.



The current beautiful brownstone building, built in the 19th century in the neo-Gothic style similar to that of medieval Churches, was literally built by the parishioners, who were volunteer laborers. This was accomplished under the leadership and vision of Fr. William McNulty for the rapidly expanding city, which included primarily Irish immigrants at the time. In 1937, Pope Pius XI named the Church of St. John the Baptist as the Cathedral, or seat of the Bishop, for the new Catholic Diocese of Paterson, which he established on that day.



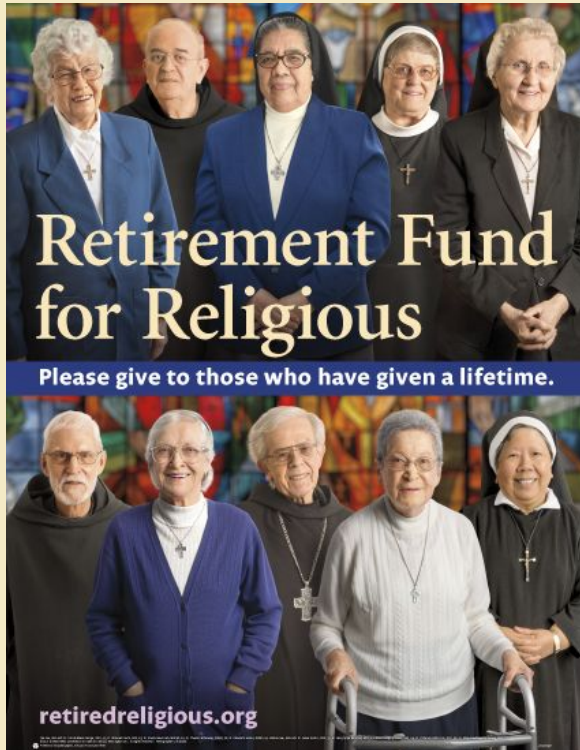
Msgr. Geno drew the group's attention to the high vaulted ceilings of the cathedral, one of the main features of this neo-Gothic architecture, explaining that this is intended to draw one's attention upwards towards God. He also pointed out the seat of the Bishop on the altar, informing the group that this is where Bishop Sweeney, the actual Pastor of the Cathedral, sits when he visits and presides at Mass. The priceless stained glass windows reflect images of different saints.



This event is one of a series of different Family Faith Formation opportunities planned to help parents and children

learn more about the unique features of the Catholic faith. Stay tuned for future events in 2022!

Retirement Fund for Religious



Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more.

The collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be this weekend of December 11 & 12. Your generous support will be greatly appreciated.

Today we celebrate the **Feast of St. Nicholas**. Parishioner and talented writer Adolf Schimpf shares this beautiful story, **A Visit from St. Nicholas, 1948**. We invite you to take a few minutes, on your own or with your children or a loved one(s), and journey back in time through this beautiful, humble, and powerfully inspiring story.

A Visit from St. Nicholas, 1948
By Adolf Schimpf

"In essence, families were huddled indoors out of necessity for physical warmth, but the circumstances also provided opportunities to strengthen bonds that are needed to bring families through difficult situations. Times were indeed hard, but thankfully, sometimes there were joyful experiences. The Christmas Season of 1948 has remained the most enduring and treasured of such memories... it was the year that my brother and I actually met St. Nicholas..."

UPCOMING

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

**Parishioner
Announcements**

**Welcoming Help
Needed for
Weekend Masses**

The Marriage Ministry invites you and your spouse to a

Christmas Gathering!



Friday, December 10th, 7:00-9:30 pm

*At the home of parishioners John & Sheri Dispenziere
Morris Plains, NJ*

RSVP: www.ndcarmel.com



CRECHE/NATIVITY



Exhibit

**Saturday, Dec. 11,
4:30–6:30 pm**

&

**Sunday, Dec. 12,
8:00 am – 1:00 pm**

In our Upper Room

WIDOWS Circle



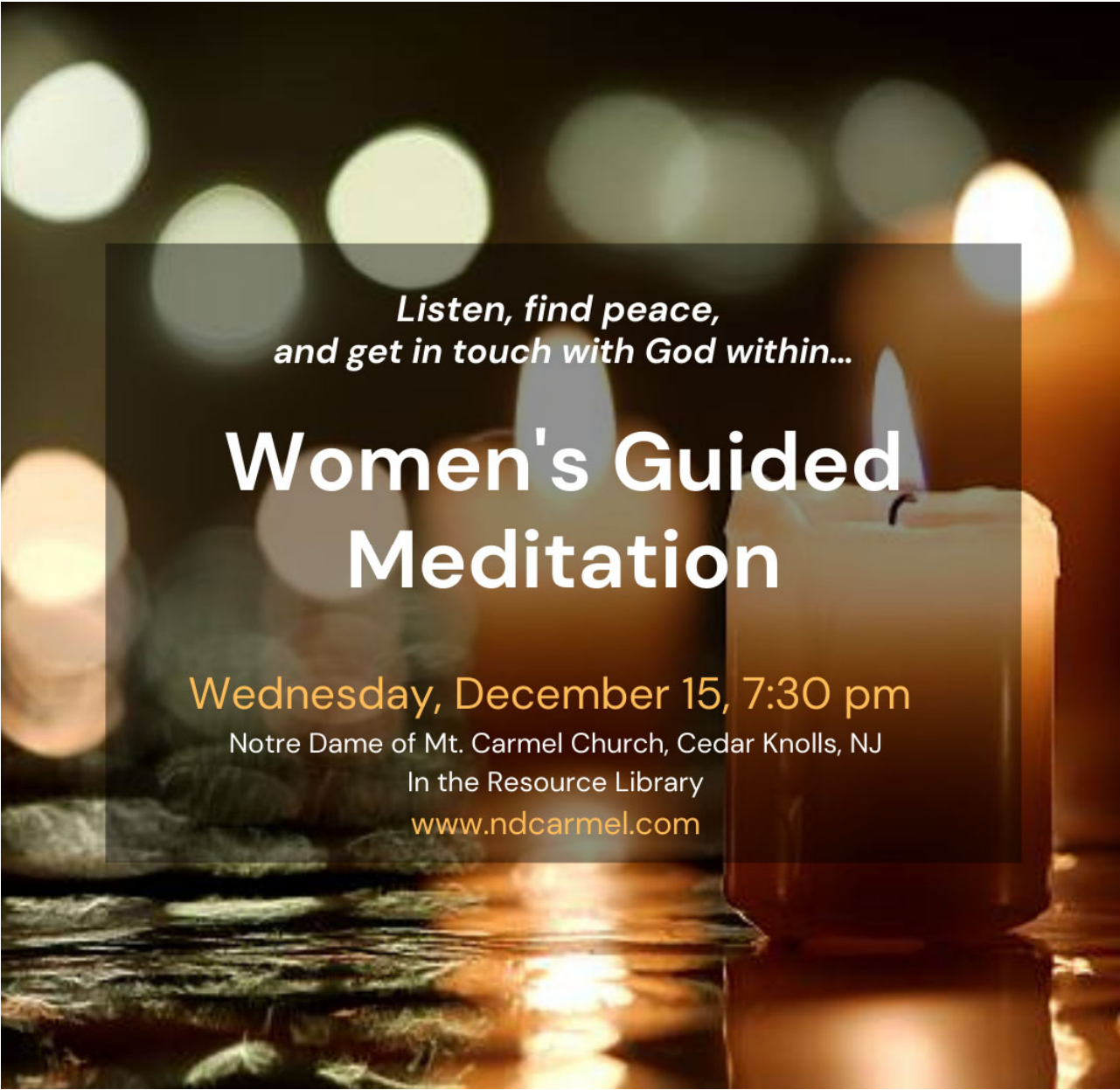
HOLIDAY GATHERING!

MONDAY, DEC. 13th, 5:00 – 6:30 PM

In Room 203



We will be bringing and wrapping Christmas gifts to donate. Join us!



*Listen, find peace,
and get in touch with God within...*

Women's Guided Meditation

Wednesday, December 15, 7:30 pm

Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church, Cedar Knolls, NJ

In the Resource Library

www.ndcarmel.com

The Cherubs are coming!

And we are calling children 3-5 years old
to be a part of this special choir!



Come to a rehearsal

Thursday, Dec. 16th at 5:30 pm in our Parish Hall.

The Cherubs will sing a Preparation song at the
9:30 am Family Mass on Sunday, Dec. 19th.

Let us know your Cherub(s) will be joining us!
RSVP: Nicole Payne at nicole.danielle313@gmail.com

SS LIFE TEEN *Youth Mass & Life Night*



All are welcome!

Youth Mass, Sundays, 6:00 pm

For High School Teens...

Food & Fellowship, 7:00 pm

Life Night, 7:30 -8:30 pm

JOB BOARD & LOCAL AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS



Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications



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