

## Cristina Folan

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**From:** mail@flocknote.com on behalf of Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church  
<mail@flocknote.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 28, 2021 10:58 AM  
**To:** Cristina Folan  
**Subject:** Parish Update: December 28, 2021

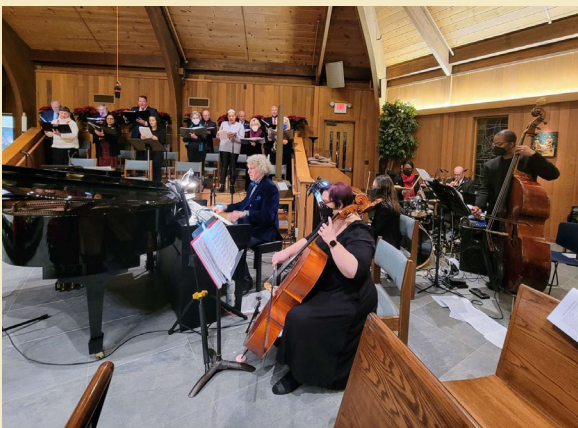


Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church



We are deeply grateful for all who helped in any way make our Christmas liturgical celebrations so memorable. Your gifts of talent, time, and treasure, upfront and behind the scenes, have been a blessing to our parish community!









***Thank you for your support of Our Parish Mission!***

All that takes place at ND and beyond through the works of our ministries is made possible through the generous giving of our parish community.





If you are not participating in **Regular Offertory Giving**, we invite you to support our mission. Click [HERE](#) to find out more and to sign up today.



## Women's & Men's Cornerstone Retreats

Registration continues for Men's & Women's Cornerstone retreats which will take place January 21 & 22 for the men and February 4 & 5 for the women. Click below to learn more about these wonderful spiritual opportunities and register today!

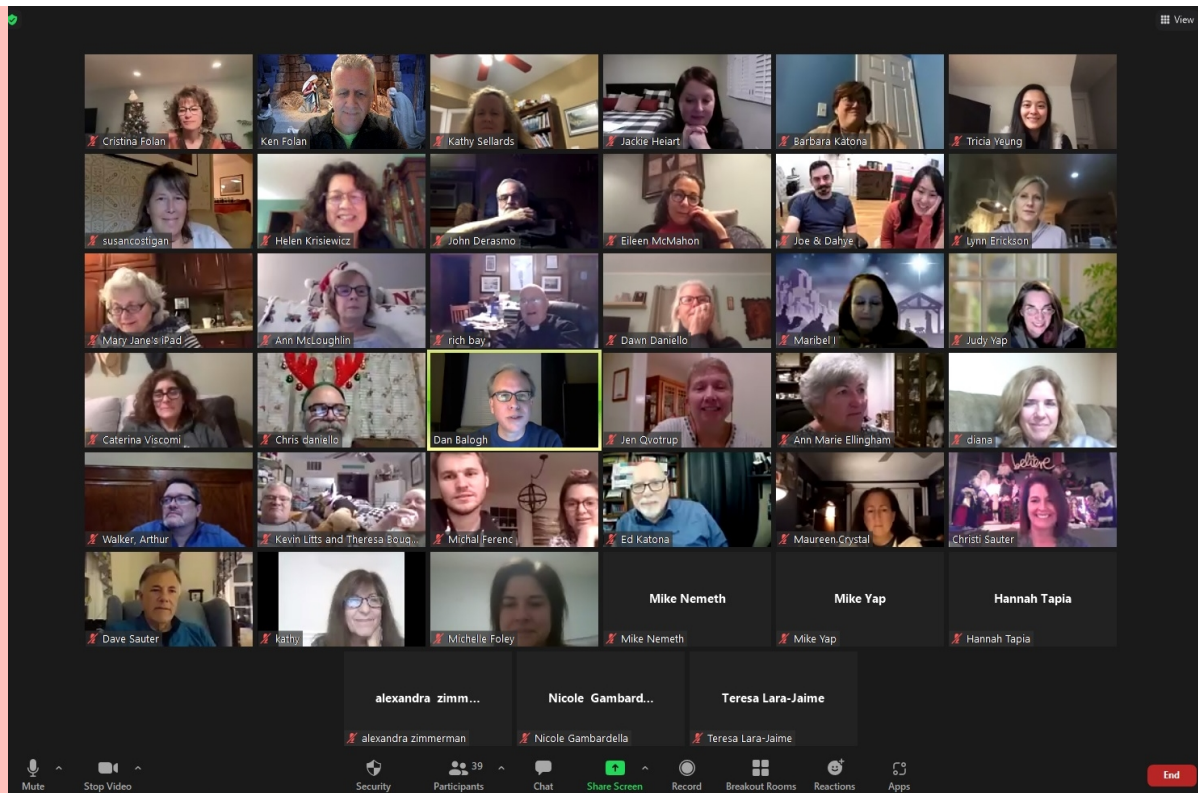


## Closing another year of Alpha at Notre Dame!

by Ministry Co-Chair, Dan Balogh

On Wednesday evening, December 15, our fourth virtual Alpha came to a close. Since last summer, through four online journeys, the Alpha team has brought approximately 120 souls closer to God. This time we were blessed to have the pastors of two other Catholic parishes join us. Now they are planning on taking Alpha back to their congregations.





In another development during this virtual series, one of the breakout rooms ventured out to hold a session at home. They very much enjoyed meeting each other more personally, having the extra time for dinner and conversation, and they were able to still be a part of the virtual gathering by connecting to the large group session on Zoom!







Our guests had the opportunity to tell us how they felt by responding to our online survey. The results were extraordinary. Every one of our respondents found the experience either very rewarding or rewarding. The same goes for hospitality: everyone felt welcome! Every guest felt the small group discussions were either very valuable or valuable, and almost everyone is very likely to recommend Alpha to someone they know.

Over 80% said they made new friends. In addition, around 60% felt more at peace, strengthened their faith, felt connected to a new community, and improved their prayer life.

One guest wrote: *"I hate to say goodbye. Everyone was amazing! Thank you for allowing me to be a part of Alpha and this journey with God."* One of our pastor guests said: *"I am so grateful for having had this opportunity to experience Alpha... My gratitude to the entire team for this wonderful experience."* And another guest told us: *"I am beyond grateful for you all...I feel a closer connection to God."* Still, another indicated: *"I feel truly blessed to have been a part of this experience."* Finally, there was this very rewarding comment from a guest from Georgia: *"It makes me want to go back to church and get involved again."*

The Heavens are rejoicing. That is what keeps the entire Alpha team going. And on that note, the leaders are currently planning Alpha at Notre Dame in 2022. We have some exciting new ideas, and we will keep you posted! Merry Christmas, everyone, and Happy New Year!



**Blessing Bags: Girls Scouts on the job!**



Food Rescue's Blessing Bags continue blessing others! Most recently, our local Girl Scouts joined to help sort and assemble 100 Blessing Bags for distribution by Hope One to homeless souls in our local community.



## Women's Cornerstone: No Strings Attached

By Melissa Fasano

The ladies of Women's Cornerstone are busy planning the upcoming retreat, February 5 & 6, 2022.





As they plan and pray for the candidates, they also have big hopes and dreams for our parish. They recognize our mission and how important it is to go beyond their retreat, beyond our doors, and venture out into the community. They want to not only welcome and invite women to a retreat but to simply offer an opportunity to connect and perhaps spark curiosity about a space for faith in their lives.

In that spirit, the 32 team members, which includes 10 out of the 18 candidates from last year's retreat, wish to invite all women of the parish and the local community to experience an evening of **Wine, Cheese, and Fellowship Friday, January 7th at 6:30 pm**. Click below to RSVP!



*Too often, we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, or the smallest act of caring...*

Longtime parishioner Florence Simek who faithfully served in our Gift Shop and the Anna League Senior Luncheon ministries, was recently visited by Fr. Paddy at the care facility where she currently resides. Her son Rudy told us Fr. Paddy picked up her spirits and even got her to sing a bit!



**If you encounter a homeless person this winter, there is something you can do safely.**

Morris County has initiated CODE BLUE. Therefore, **call 973.829.8264 before 4:30 pm., or 211 if it is after 4:30 pm.** Someone will come to transport the person to a warm, safe shelter or hotel room. You will be asked to give the location.

Let's take care of our neighbors!



UPCOMING

# Mass Schedule

Solemnity of  
Mary, Mother of God

Friday, Dec. 31: 5:30 pm Vigil

Saturday, Jan. 1: 12 Noon\*

Feast of the Epiphany

Saturday, Jan 1: 5 pm\* Vigil

Sunday, Jan 2: 7:30 am, 9:30 am,  
11:30 am & 6 pm



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

**Parishioner  
Announcements**



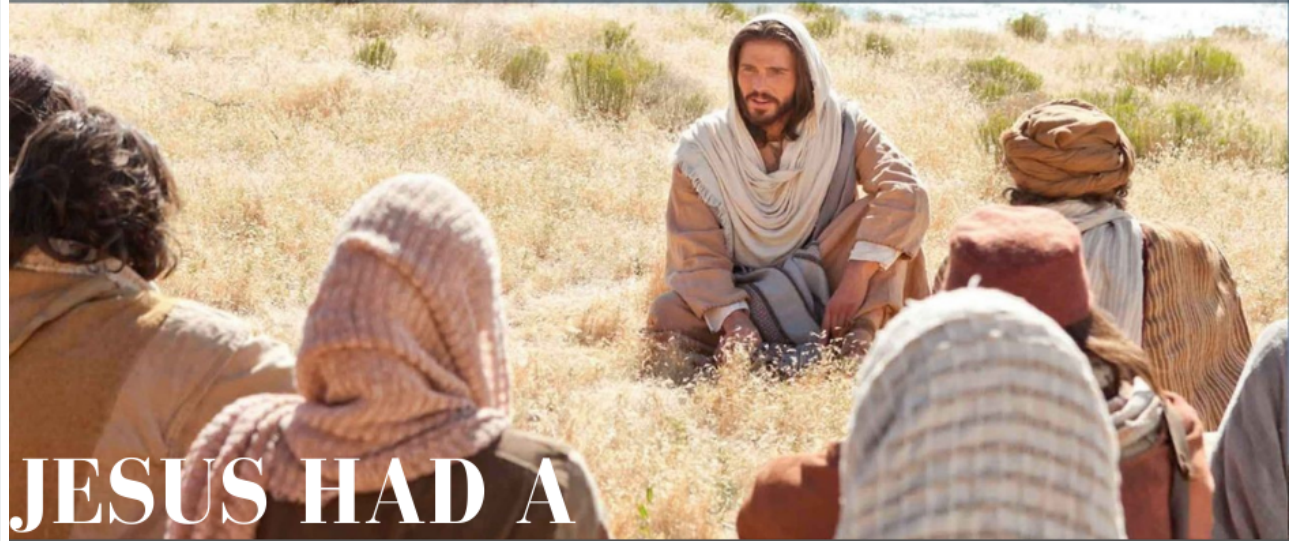
# *Women's Guided Meditation*

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

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 12th, 7:30 pm**  
Downstairs in the Resource Library



Do you enjoy small group conversations?  
Do you care about people and their spiritual journeys?  
Would you like to learn more about facilitating small group conversations?



# JESUS HAD A SMALL GROUP

**Facilitating Discussions Like the Master!**

**SATURDAY, JAN. 15TH, 9:00\*-11:30 AM**

*In the Parish Hall  
\*Join us for Coffee and... starting at 8:30 am.*

**Find out more and RSVP at [www.ndcarmel.com](http://www.ndcarmel.com)**

## **JOB BOARD & LOCAL AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***Memories that tell  
our story...***











Please visit the photo albums on our website for more special memories! And be sure to follow us on social media:

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[Instagram](#)



Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications

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