

## Cristina Folan

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**From:** mail@flocknote.com on behalf of Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church  
<mail@flocknote.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 22, 2021 4:29 PM  
**To:** Cristina Folan  
**Subject:** Parish Update: March 22, 2021



*Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel, our Mother and Patroness, and St. Joseph the Just  
pray for us!*

**This weekend we celebrate Palm Sunday,  
marking the beginning of Holy Week: Join us**

*Click below for our Holy Week & Easter schedule*



# Holy Week & Easter

Schedule of Masses & Events

[CLICK HERE](#)

For those joining us for Palm Sunday via Livestream, there will be palms available at the entrance of the church **this Friday, from 12:30 PM – 5 PM**. You may stop by to pick up a palm for you/your family so you can participate in the blessing of the palms during the Mass. Blessed palms will also be available at the entrance of the church after Palm Sunday up to Wednesday of Holy Week.

## DRIVE-THRU DROP-OFF

### *Ham Drive & Food Collection*

*Fresh, frozen, smoked, or canned hams & non-perishable food items*

**Saturday, March 27th, 9:00-11:00 am**



**Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church**

75 Ridgedale Ave., Cedar Knolls, NJ (Back parking lot)

[www.ndcarmel.com](http://www.ndcarmel.com)

## **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: Outreach to our Homebound**

**By Ministry Chair, Jack Vales**



Peace be with you! With the blessings of Father Paddy, our Parish's Outreach Ministry has resumed its charitable service! Each weekend, a group of truly extraordinary ministers delivers the Body of Christ to our fellow parishioners who are unable to attend Mass in person.

*"We currently have 15 ministers making visits to 10 parishioners (not all ministers make visits on a weekly basis). Prior to the pandemic, we were alternating with Our Lady of Mercy bringing the Holy Eucharist to residents at Care One, Whippany NJ. Once safety concerns are lifted, we hope to welcome back ministers not currently active and resume all visits."* - Debbie White, EM Outreach Ministry Administrator

With love and gratitude, our ministers connect with homebound members of our parish and experience the wonderful joy of administering the sacrament of communion. Serving in the Outreach Ministry is truly a blessing and we would welcome anyone who is interested to join our ranks, whether you wish to make weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or seasonal visits. If you are interested in the Outreach Ministry, have any questions, or know someone who would benefit from this Ministry, please contact Jack Vales at [vales.john@yahoo.com](mailto:vales.john@yahoo.com).



*"I have had the privilege of being a member of the EM Outreach Ministry for over ten years and have been blessed to have met so many wonderful members of our parish. We have become friends, we have shared stories and we have prayed together with the Eucharist and God as our connection. Many of these people had been daily attendees at mass. Once they were unable to attend mass, even before Covid restrictions, it left a void in their lives. Bringing them communion on a weekly basis is so appreciated, plus it gave them contact with another person. Most of our Homebound parishioners are blessed with family members in the area who see to their physical and daily needs. We see to their spiritual, prayer, and social needs.*



*Because of Covid restrictions, we were not able to bring them Eucharist for a while. Once it was determined we could visit our communicants (and they wanted us to come) practicing Covid guidelines, we were good to go. Currently, I bring the Eucharist primarily to four women who live in the Sterling Parc Senior Housing. I call them the day before, confirm when I will visit, and stress Covid Protocols. They open their door with masks on, we say a prayer, I give them the host, ask if they need anything, how they are, give them a Beacon and I leave. I miss being able to sit in their apartments and chat, have a cup of tea, etc. but I look forward to that in the future. They have all had their vaccines as have I, so we are optimistic that eventually, we can "go back to normal."*

*Lorelei Kelly*

*"Prior to the COVID shutdown, I was a new member of the EM Homebound Outreach ministry. I had not yet visited a homebound parishioner without the loving guidance and support of a seasoned member of the ministry. I was preparing for solo visits when COVID restrictions were put in place. The church doors closed, parish life was put on hold, and the lifeline of the Eucharist was severed for our homebound.*

*The church doors were eventually opened and those who could were able to receive our Lord once again, but the homebound remained isolated without the gift of the Holy Eucharist. Once we were given the "green light" I looked forward with joy, to reuniting a homebound parishioner with Jesus through Holy Eucharist.*

*The impact of this beautiful ministry could be seen and felt during my first visit. Even though she was not feeling well and in pain, Barbara was so comforted by being able to receive Eucharist. She prayed the Our Father and was joyfully reunited with our Lord and*

*Savior. What an amazing gift to be able to bring Jesus in the Holy Eucharist to one who is most in need of His comfort and peace."*

*Maria Cascio*

## **Lenten Meditation Service**

**by Family Faith Director Laura Balogh**

This past Thursday, March 18, Family Faith Formation hosted a *Lenten Meditation Service* with our Confirmation Prep and Middle School families. This was a hybrid event, with people joining live in the Church and also via Zoom. We were blessed to have 32 families attend in person and 22 virtually! Father Alex was the presider, and he opened the evening in prayer. The evening featured a teen-focused Stations of the Cross, which is a 14-step Lenten devotional that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. This version contained revised language to make each Station relevant to the lives of youth and their own unique challenges.



After an opening prayer by Father Alex, Faith Leader Carolyn Tortorello explained the origins of this Catholic devotion to the assembly. Marge Collins then set the scene with a guided meditation, taking the group back to the year 33 AD and walking through the events each day of Holy Week, which provided context for the events in the preceding Stations. The Stations were then narrated by different youth readers, alternating live in the Church and via Zoom. During the readings, other teen

volunteers held the plaques representing each Station up in front of the Church for all to see and meditate upon.



Following the Stations, Father Alex sent us forth with a special message and prayer. The participants were sent home with a special Easter gift, a garden starter kit: a little pot with soil, and 3-morning glory seeds. The instructions in each bag included a reminder that “every seed must die—and rise to new life.” A perfect and appropriate gift for the upcoming Easter season!

*“Laura, I just wanted to let you know how much we enjoyed the teen-focused Stations of the Cross. They were really focused on the teens being able to relate to them in their day-to-day lives. We all listened and participated as a family, including our older son.”*

*“I just wanted to congratulate you and the entire team that put together the Teen Stations of the Cross this evening! It was wonderful to witness the teens participating both in person and virtually, and I’m sure it was a technological challenge as well. Thank you! It meant so much for us to be a part of it.”*





Many thanks to so many people who played a key role in making this evening a success:

- The planning team of Carolyn Tortorello, Marge Collins, and Patty Gant; a special thanks to Marge for providing all the gifts!
- Father Alex, who led us in prayer
- The technical team of Matt & Tony Bono and Christa Cottone
- All the youth readers and volunteer Station "holders"
- Cherylan Davies who took photos

*[Click HERE](#) to view more memories from this special event.*

## Food Rescue Ministry's First "Yes!"

By Ministry Chair Beth Vecchio

Since March 2020, when The Notre Dame Food Rescue Ministry began its work to feed COVID hungry, wonderful local stores and restaurants have helped by donating their end-of-day food. Our ministers have picked up, wrapped, bagged, frozen, and delivered to worthy local agencies who feed those in need. The very first restaurant to say "YES" to our cause, was **The Bagelry in Cedar Knolls**.



Located in the new plaza on the corner of Horsehill Rd. and Hanover Ave., (across from ShopRite) the Bagelry is open 365 days a year and is run by the nicest, kindest team you'll ever meet! Anthony and Abe had wanted to have a place for their daily leftovers, and when we inquired, they did not miss a beat! 365 days later, we have supplied approximately **54,750 bagels** to local families who are clients of Table of Hope in Morristown, The Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris, located in Parsippany, Loaves and Fishes in Boonton, Homeless Solutions in Morris County, Neighborhood House in Morristown, and several local churches.

***Many hands make light work*** - The "bagel brigade," as we fondly refer to this arm of the Food Rescue ministry, is led by Patrice Barry and supported by a magnificent team of volunteers. The bagels are retrieved around 2:10 pm daily by 7 different ministers....a different one each day of the week.

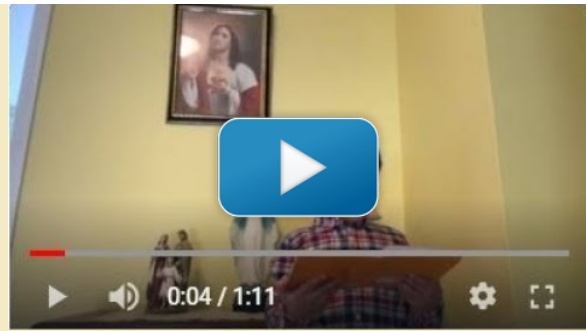


We are indebted to the generosity of **The Bagelry**.....who, by the way, make the most delicious, fresh bagels!! They also make outstanding sandwiches and platters, serve a variety of cream cheeses, and can cater your special breakfast or lunch. Please support this wonderful, generous small business and help us say "thank you!"

## **The Joy of our Family Mass!**







## UPCOMING

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

**Welcoming Help  
Needed for  
Weekend Masses**

### **Opportunities for Confession before Holy Week**

- This evening (last Monday in Lent): 7:00-8:30 PM
- Saturday, March 27: 12:45-1:30pm;





**Next Virtual Gathering: This Saturday, March 27, 8-10 AM.**

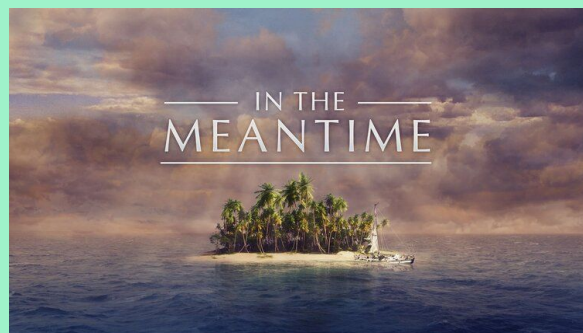
Email Ed Newlands at [ed.newlands@gmail.com](mailto:ed.newlands@gmail.com) for the link to join the virtual gathering.

**In the Meantime Virtual Series**

*What can you do when there seems to be no way forward or no way out? What can you do when you have problems without solutions . . . questions without answers?*

**Begins April 19, 2021**

*(Registration required)*

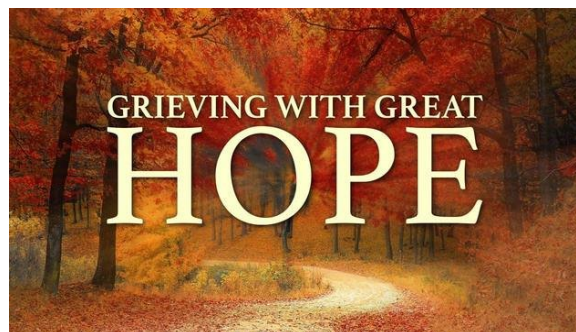


## Grieving with Great Hope

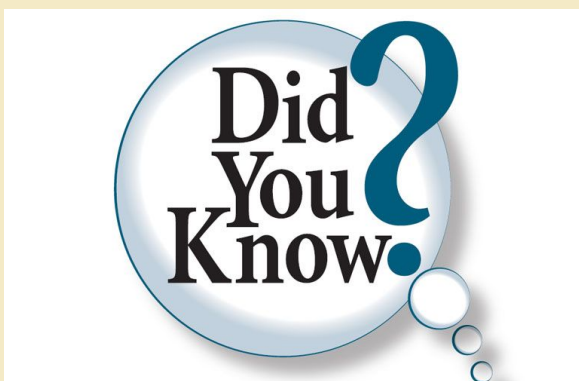
Virtual Bereavement Series

**Begins April 26, 2021**

*(Registration required)*



## LOCAL AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS



## The Fourfold Presence of Jesus at Mass

During the celebration of the Holy Mass, Jesus is present in the ministry of the priest, the proclamation of scriptures, the assembled people, and the Eucharist.







**Have a blessed week!**



Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications

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