

From: Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church <mail@flocknote.com>
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 5:27 PM
To: Cristina Folan
Subject: Parish Update: May 24, 2021

Celebrating the Feast of Pentecost!

This past Feast of Pentecost, Fr. Paddy shared a **Vision Homily** reminding us the renewal of our parish and the Church cannot happen without the power of God's Holy Spirit. He is challenging us to let go, surrender, and open our arms and hearts to Jesus's invitation to encounter Him and to allow our hearts to be transformed and moved forward by the power of His Spirit.



"The 7:30 a.m. Mass was also beautiful and Fr. Paddy's calling those who have been transformed by the Holy Spirit to stand at the end of Mass was incredibly moving—he sang "Come Holy Spirit/ fall afresh on me..." on all of us!"

(Facebook comment)

Speaking in different tongues! Also at all Masses, various parishioners led us in the Prayers of the Faithful with petitions in various languages.



Little ones at the **9:30 Family Mass** filled our sacred space with such excitement and joyful noise!



Inspired by the beautiful tradition in Rome of the Pentecost Pantheon Rose Petal Shower, Fr. Alex and our Faith Formation team orchestrated our very own Notre Dame descent of the Holy Spirit!



Special thanks to Denise Panyik Dale for capturing the beautiful memories at the Family Mass and to Fr. Paddy for capturing the video! Click [HERE](#) to view more!



At the 11:30 AM Mass, three RCIA candidates received Sacraments of Initiation: **Melissa Coccia** received her First Holy Communion and Confirmation, while **Anaëlle Angeles** and **Nicole Pallico** received the sacrament of Confirmation.



Special thanks to Faith Formation Director Laura Balogh and RCIA Leaders Claire and Jim Matlon who shepherded these souls on their preparation journey of becoming fully initiated members of the Catholic Church.



A New Beginning...

At the 5 PM Vigil Mass this past weekend, Fr. Paddy acknowledged and celebrated Jean Pankow who, after serving as Pastoral Associate for the past 14 years, will begin a new chapter in her life in TN.



Our hearts are filled with deep gratitude for all that Jean has done for us, not only in the 14 years as Pastoral Associate but also in the 24 years she has served as a faithful, passionate, and committed member of this parish family.

NJ Catholic Bishops: Mass Dispensation Update

The Catholic Bishops of NJ are **lifting the dispensation of Sunday and Holy Days Mass obligation beginning the weekend of June 5 & 6, Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.**

It has been a great joy, especially these past few weeks, to welcome back so many of our faithful to the in-person celebration of Mass and to other parish events. Together with those who have joined as new members of the parish since the pandemic broke out, we have much hope for what is to come -- not only for our parish community but also for those we are called to reach with the Good News of Christ!



Be sure to invite friends and family to join us!

Sacramental Celebrations: Looking Back

The pandemic presented numerous challenges and blessings for our Family Faith Formation program, especially for families whose children were preparing to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion or Confirmation. As soon as it was feasible, the preparation sessions were moved to a virtual model via Zoom. The convenience to meet virtually was appreciated by many parents, yet children often felt overburdened by the need to spend more time in front of a device beyond the already taxing school requirements. Program directors and Faith Leaders worked hard to be creative and make the sessions as engaging and fruitful as possible.



In many ways, the celebrations of First Holy Communions and Confirmations these past few weeks have reminded us that challenging journeys often lead to growth and great joy. It was a delight to have celebrated these sacramental milestones with the 35 children who received First Holy Communion and the 97 teens who received the sacrament of Confirmation, and their families and loved ones.



While these celebrations are behind us for this ministry year, the faith journey of these children, teens, and their families continues. We pray for their ongoing engagement in faith at home and in Faith Formation activities, faithfulness to the Sacrament of Eucharist, and their continued desire to grow and share the Good News of Jesus with others.

(Please visit our website for special memories from our First Communion and Confirmation celebrations).

Family Faith Formation 2021-2022!

Do you have a child entering PreK-4 through 8th grade in the fall who will not be attending Catholic School?

Do you have a child with Special Needs?

If you answered yes to either question above, we invite you to be a part of our Family Faith Formation program for the 2021-2022 ministry year! **Registrations open the week of June 7, 2021, and will continue through the summer until September 3, 2021.** The process, similar to that of last year, will consist of the following steps:

1. **A brief parent meeting with a member of the Faith Formation team**, to be held via Zoom or in-person. There is an online Sign Up (link below) where parents may select a date and time slot for the meeting. **This is an important pre-requisite** to the actual registration as our conversations will offer an opportunity to get to know the families in the program, discuss

our approach to faith formation, the planned schedule and curriculum, any changes for next ministry year, and also address any questions, special needs or concerns parents may have.

2. **Once the meeting has taken place, parents will be provided with the link to register their child(ren).**

While the parent meetings will not begin until the week of June 7, you may reserve a preferred day/time meeting slot today!

**Click here to
schedule your
parent meeting!**

We look forward to meeting with you and welcoming your family!! Should you have any questions, please contact Laura Balogh, Faith Formation Director, at lbalogh@ndcarmel.com or call 973-538-1358, ext 121.

Marriage Ministry Year-End Witness Event

by Ministry Co-Chairs, Debby & Eric Kispert

This past Friday, May 21st, our Marriage Ministry hosted their year-end event featuring a witness talk by Dan & Julia Rizos. Eleven couples attended in-person and three virtually. The evening included a time for discussion with questions Dan and Julia prepared based on their journey as a married couple.



What was so special about Dan & Julia is two-fold. One, they represent a younger couple, yet modeling for both newly married as well as those married for decades. Two, attending to support them were Julia's two sisters and their spouses as well as their parents, Deacon Joe Harris and his wife Karen along with Julia's grandparents, who recently celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary!



The core of the success of their marriage has been their Catholic upbringing and their devotion to serving others; after all, they met in their teens on an Appalachia mission trip. Their relationship is rooted in trusting God to lead the way. They shared a Thomas Merton prayer that has been their compass, especially since they both admit organization and planning are not strengths either one shares, something they visibly experienced starting with their road-trip honeymoon! They also expressed how important it has been to see God's hand in other people who have supported and guided them, especially in marriage & family.



We thank Dan & Julia for their vulnerability and grace in sharing this touching witness. We look forward to publicizing our new ministry year plans for 2021-2022 later this summer. Stay tuned!

Food Rescue Ministry: Leadership Pipeline

by Beth Vecchio, Food Rescue Ministry Chair

The mission of The Food Rescue Ministry is two-fold: provide rescued food for the hungry and provide parishioners opportunities to serve. Some of those opportunities include leadership. When a minister stands out as a potential leader, it is imperative that the opportunity be offered. **Cathy Passarella** stepped right up during the early days of the clothing drives. She had experience volunteering at a nonprofit thrift store. She brought us so many bags and explained that she sorted everything. It was clear that Cathy was a manager, an organizer, and a leader! Now she runs our Clothing & Food Collection drive-thru events!"

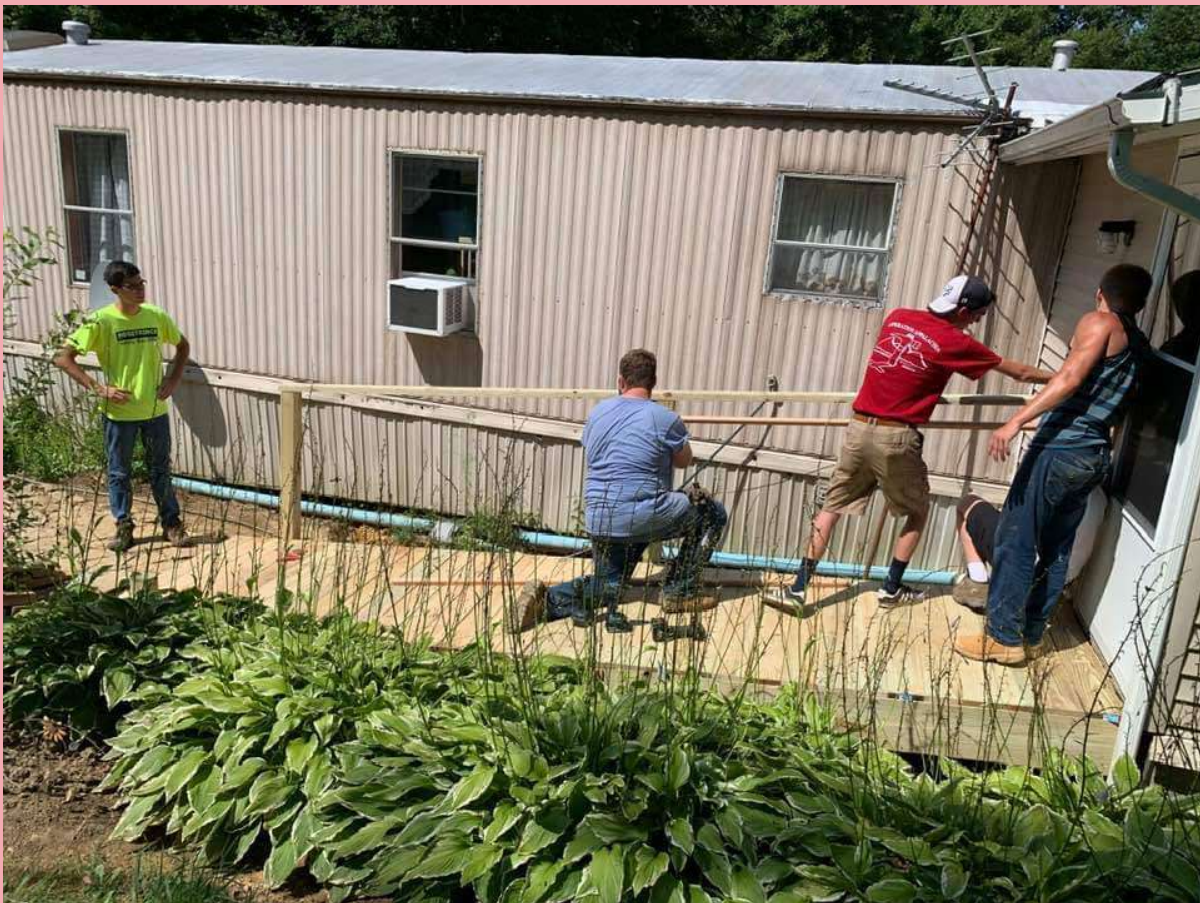


Registration is Open for Vacation Bible School!

Our in-person "Treasured" Vacation Bible School will embark on an epic quest the week of July 19 from 9:00 am - 12:15 pm. All children entering PreK-4 – 5th grades are invited to journey with us to discover the richness of God's love! Space is limited. Click [HERE](#) for more details and to register today!



Operation Appalachia: It's a "Go!" for Aug. 2021



We are happy to announce that we are actively planning an Operation Appalachia service trip for **August 1-7, 2021**. Stay tuned for an upcoming meeting date where we will have more information regarding sign-ups and Covid safety protocols. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please e-mail notredameopap@gmail.com.

UPCOMING

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

**Welcoming Help
Needed for
Weekend Masses**

LOCAL AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS



Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications



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