

Subject: Parish Update: January 23, 2022

Date: Sunday, January 23, 2022 at 7:01:29 PM Mountain Standard Time

From: Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church

To: Cristina Folan



Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church



Rite of Welcome: Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

by Faith Formation Director Laura Balogh

Beginning last October 2021, we started forming a wonderful group of adult inquirers interested in becoming Catholic or taking the remaining steps to become fully initiated members of the Church. As part of their journey, this morning, Sunday, January 23, at the 11:30 am Mass, we celebrated the *Rite of Welcome*, presenting the following individuals to the parish who will be receiving Sacraments

of Initiation at the Easter Vigil this year:

- **Allie Ferenc** (will receive Eucharist & Confirmation)
- **Michael Nemeth** (will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation)
- **Felicia Apito** (will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation)
- **Gianna Korpita** (will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation)



Claire and Jim Matlon, who facilitate this adult formation program, accompanied the candidates. Fr. Paddy asked each person to introduce themselves and share a bit of what brings them to Notre Dame to receive the Sacraments.

Another member of the group (not pictured above), **Tricia Yeung**, raised in the Buddhist faith, is also on the journey as a full catechumen. She, therefore, will receive all of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation). She will be introduced to the parish at a later date.





Congratulations to all on this exciting and vital step in your faith journey!! Please know that you will be in our prayers as you continue on your formation to receive your Sacraments.



Do you know anyone interested in becoming Catholic or never received the Sacrament of Confirmation? Don't hesitate to get in touch with Laura Balogh at: lbalogh@ndcarmel.com or 973-538-1358, ext. 121.

Knights of Columbus: Charity, Fraternity and Unity Degree

By KoC Member, Joe Bono

Congratulations to our own **Fr. Alex and seminarian Lucas Folan** on becoming full members of the Elizabeth Ann Seton council of the Knights of Columbus, supporting Notre Dame and Our Lady of Mercy parishes. They participated in the Exemplification of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity (CUF) Degree on Thursday, January 20th with six other men at OLM.



The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal organization of Catholic men founded in 1882 by Blessed Fr. Michael McGivney, a young priest serving at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, CT. Today, there are more than 2 million members of the Knights of Columbus worldwide.

Since its founding, the initiation ceremonies for the first three degrees of K of C membership — focused on the principles of charity, unity, and fraternity — have been separate and open to members only. However, starting in 2020, the K of C adopted a new CUF Degree ceremony. The new ceremony combines the initiation for the first three degrees into a single ritual that is open to everyone so they can witness Catholic men participate in the initiation ceremony and become Knights in a local Council.





There is nothing the Knights of Columbus do that is secret or needs to be secret. For example, Fr. Alex was already a First Degree member in the K of C for ten years but could not get his following two degrees at a convenient time. Now, all who participate in a single 30-minute ceremony are considered full members in the K of C. Any practicing Catholic man over 18 is eligible to join. Anyone interested in joining may contact Mike Ricciardi at michaelricciardi22@gmail.com.

Congratulations to our Rosen Award Recipients!

By Laura Balogh, Family Faith Director

For many years, Notre Dame of Mt Carmel has recognized faith-filled teens who have devoted outstanding service to our parish family with the Jane Rosen “Saint on Every Corner Award.” This award originated with the late Jane Rosen, who dedicated her life to caring for others. When Jane passed away after suffering through the ravages of Alzheimer’s Disease, her family set aside money for an annual “Saint in Every Corner Award” in memory of their loving mother and grandmother. The award is given out each year at Notre Dame and recognizes two members of our youth who have provided outstanding service here at the parish.

The winners for 2021 are **Maya & Marley Zeris!** Maya and Marley serve in many different capacities here in the parish. They are lectors at the 9:30 am Family Masses, assist in Sacramental Prep Faith Formation, provide child care for Marriage Ministry events, and help with Vacation Bible School in the summer. Both are also faithful altar servers who recently served at the Midnight Christmas Mass.





Fr. Alex presented both teens with their awards at the Family Mass this morning, Sunday, January 23. Please join us in congratulating them both on this well-deserved award! We are so grateful to Marley & Maya for their amazing example of Christian love and service!



Saints as Superheroes

By Laura Balogh, Family Faith Director

Who are the saints and what are their roles in the Church and our everyday faith lives? How does one go about choosing a saint name for Confirmation? What is the process in becoming a saint?

Jennifer Elsensohn, Pastoral Associate at the co-Cathedral of St. Robert Bellarmine in Freehold, NJ, self-professed science fiction and superhero nerd and the co-author of *Comic Con Christianity*, addressed the families present about these and other questions. In addition, she discussed her complex spiritual path and the fact that she did not initially desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at all. However, after exploring her faith more as she grew older and through the development of relationships with other Christians, she gradually found her way back to the church.



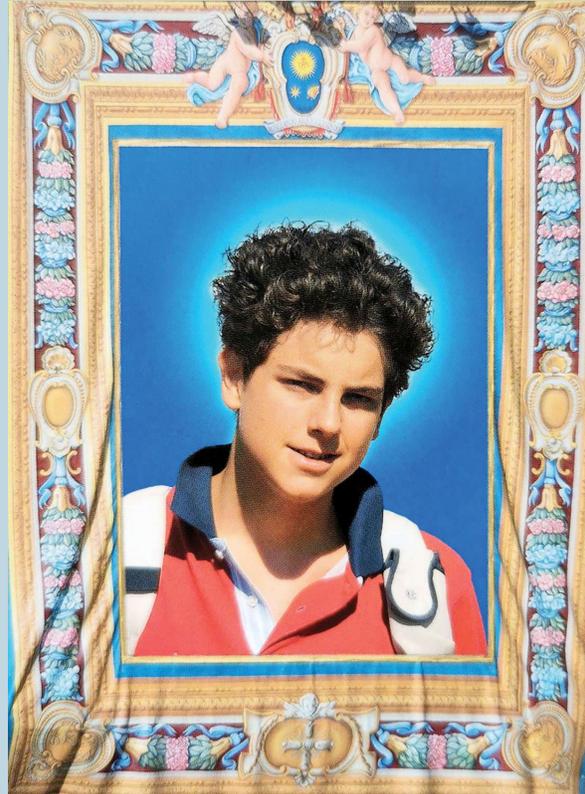
Jennifer spoke about her own Confirmation name saint, St. Elizabeth of Hungary. Then, she engaged the parents by asking them to spend a few minutes talking with their children about the saint name each one of them chose for their Confirmation.



During her talk, Jennifer provided several suggestions for anyone struggling to choose a Confirmation name. Many saints are deemed patrons or guardians of different areas of life, like occupations, illnesses, churches, countries, causes -- anything important to us. She mentioned there is even a patron saint of television (St. Claire of Assisi)! She also explained that St. Sebastian is the patron saint of

athletes because he was martyred after being struck by numerous arrows. Many sports enthusiasts have chosen Sebastian as their Confirmation name. She encouraged each person to think about their hobbies and interests and do some research to determine if a saint matches their interest.

Jennifer discussed the process of becoming a saint in the Church and referenced Blessed Carlo Acutis, whose portrait she brought and displayed on the altar. Bl. Carlo was a devout Italian teen who died of Leukemia in 2006 when he was only 15 years old. He was a computer geek who created a website dedicated to documenting the many Eucharistic miracles approved by the Church. (Click [HERE](#) for more information). Jennifer mentioned to be declared a saint by the Pope, two (2) thoroughly documented miracles are required. So far, Blessed Carlo has one miracle attributed to his intercession. The fact-filled evening ended with some interesting questions from the audience that Jennifer skillfully answered.



"Listening to Pastoral Associate Jennifer Eisensohn's journey was inspiring. Hearing that she had no desire to be a Catholic while growing up, only to find Jesus Christ later in life through the Saint she selected for her Confirmation taught us that God is like a GPS. He is always out there trying to give us direction on our journey, and it is up to us to make a right when He tells us to make

"A focal point for my twins and me was choosing a confirmation name. I spoke about choosing my confirmation name after my grandfather (also name of many saints); aside from my father, my grandfather was the main role model I aspired to be. This led to more conversation later on about my grandfather." Daniel E. Lieneck, Jr

a right; and when we don't make a right when He tells us, like Jennifer in her youth or teenage years, God is looking down the road where He can tell us to make a U-turn. Happy to hear that Jennifer turned up the volume on her GPS later in life." Tomas Lin

"I always thought Saints were perfect individuals who lived perfect lives because we only know the good they accomplished or tried to accomplish during their lives... However, I understand now that the saints were not perfect and that God does not look for perfection but rather looks for a growing relationship with him." Andrew Genovese

Many thanks to Jennifer and her husband John for being our special guests!

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.

Married Couples: Take the Oneness Journey!

marriage oneness



Regardless of how long you have been married, join us as we learn and discuss practical guidance in seven key areas of marriage: Communication, Money, Intimacy, Family and Friends, Conflict, Resolution, Spiritual Beliefs, Roles, and Responsibilities.

The 8-session series will be held Fridays, February 18 - March 8, 2022, 7:00-9:30 pm in Room 201. Onsite babysitting will be available!

**Oneness: Click
here to Register!**

"Oneness exceeded our expectations! It took our marriage to a deeper level & provided us additional skills to sustain the periodic 'rough waters.' But, most importantly, I LOVE my spouse more as a result!"

"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 which 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."

"How I began to believe that the Eucharist

really is Jesus"

"It actually was Bob Dylan who got me started ..."



*"After losing my faith in high school, I only became open to Christianity again because of Bob Dylan. I had bought all of his albums and loved them all — even the Christian ones. In the title song from his album *Saved*, Dylan concisely summed up his Protestant beliefs this way: "I was blinded by the devil / Born already ruined / Stone-cold dead / As I stepped out of the womb / By His grace I have been touched / By His word I have been healed / By His hand I've been delivered / By His Spirit I've been sealed / I've been saved / By the blood of the Lamb." And then he repeated it: "Saved, by the blood of the Lamb."*

I bought what he said — to a point. I saw how Dylan could be "born already ruined." We are all connected by blood to Adam, and so his decision to align himself with sin defined me just as one grandfather's move from Kansas to Arizona and the other grandfather's move from El Salvador to Mexico. But how could Jesus' blood get from Palestine two millennia ago to save Bob Dylan, or me, today?" [Click HERE to read the full story...](#)

UPCOMING

This week's Mass
& Lamp Intentions

Parishioner
Announcements



*Join us in faith and friendship!
We explore a different topic each month and offer an
opportunity for sharing and discussion. Our next gathering is*
SATURDAY, JAN. 29th, 8:00-10:00 AM
Downstairs in the Resource Library



NOT SO *The Newlywed Game*

Saturday, February 12th 6:30 - 8:30 pm - Parish Hall

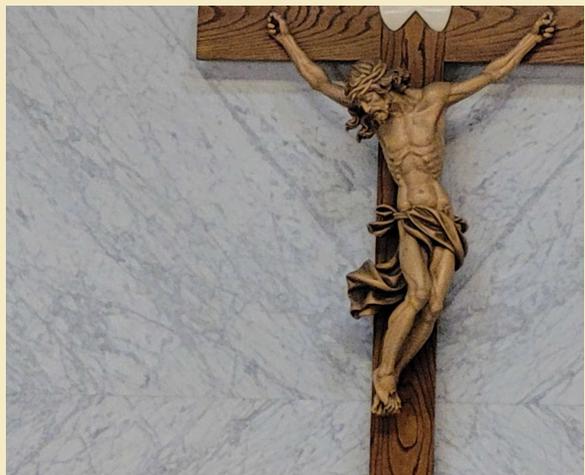
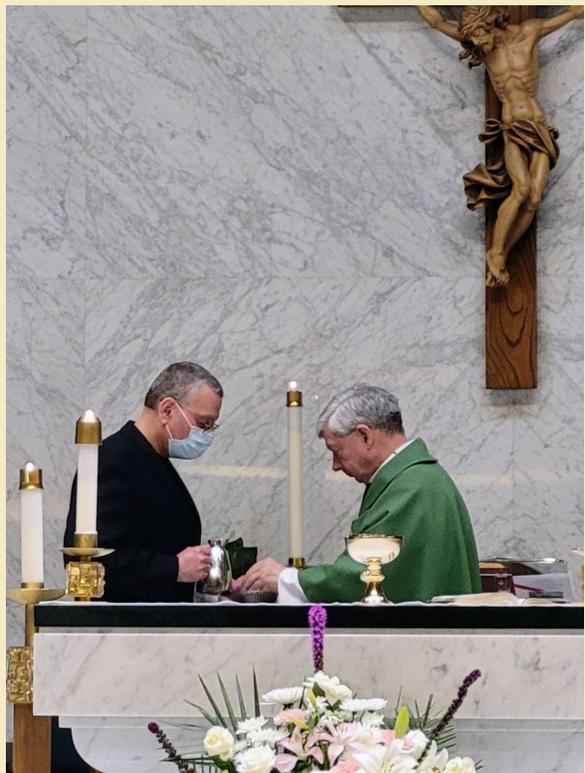
On-site Childcare Provided - See our website for registration

Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church
75 Ridgedale Ave., Cedar Knolls, NJ | www.ndcarmel.com

JOB BOARD & LOCAL AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memories that tell our story...







Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications

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