

PARISH UPDATE

MARCH 21, 2022



Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel

CEDAR KNOLLS, NJ
www.ndcarmel.com

Please note...

This document is a snapshot of our Weekly Parish Update which is delivered electronically to our faith community. The digital version includes links and video which is easily accessible online and offer a more dynamic experience of parish life here at Notre Dame. If you would like to receive these updates electronically, please send an email to commsupport@ndcarmel.com.

Generosity



Ukraine Relief:

In response to a call from our Diocese for Ukraine Relief, over \$15,000 was donated from our generous parish community.

Young disciples on mission:

Boots for a brother in need...

In response to a call from the Mental Health Association for a pair of water-proof boots for a gentleman in need, we promptly received six offers to help!



So Cute Moment

Hi [redacted]
Hello! This is Miss [redacted] and I wanted to just send you a quick email about something [redacted] did earlier today. We were discussing leprechauns and their pots of gold in honor of St. Patrick's day. The writing activity is to write what you would do if you found a leprechaun's pot of gold. [redacted] was so caring and mentioned the Rice Bowl donation for Lent and how she would put all of her gold in the rice bowl for poor people. Once the students heard that [redacted] would give to the poor, everyone wanted to then give at least part or all of their leprechaun gold to charity. I just wanted to share such a sweet moment and how much of a positive influence [redacted] is in class. Have a great afternoon!
Sincerely,
Miss [redacted]



Emma & Jack Vales: Witness Talk

By Laura Balogh, Family Faith Formation Director

On Tuesday, March 15, the Middle School Faith Formation families gathered in the church to hear an inspiring witness talk from fellow parishioners Emma Vales and her father, Jack. Emma received her Sacrament of Confirmation two years ago here at the parish and is currently in her senior year at Villa Walsh Academy in Morristown, an all-girls Catholic school run by Religious Sisters Filippini.

Emma and Jack had an interview-style discussion. Emma shared about the impact her strong faith has had on her journey and how it has enabled her to surmount -- and even thrive -- in the face of her life's challenges. Emma has a strong passion for the dignity of the human person, from conception to natural death, and

consequently is committed to the Right to Life. Emma and Jack spoke about participating in the March for Life several years ago in Washington, D.C.

Emma has a strong desire to serve others and has many interests and hobbies. She has been an active participant in the Girls Scouts since kindergarten. At Villa Walsh, she is a member of the service club St.

Lucy's Angels/Life Witness. Part of

the club's mission is visiting and corresponding with the Sisters living in the Infirmary who are isolated from much of the outside world. She also enjoys participating as a server at the Community Soup Kitchen in Morristown (Nourish, NJ). Emma tutors underprivileged 5th graders through SOAR Tutoring, also located in Morristown. She enjoys educating her siblings Clara and Jack at home about anything from mathematics to theology! Another of Emma's interests is the law, an interest she shares with her dad, a lawyer! She enjoys participating as a witness in Mock Trial, an organization in which high school students simulate real-life trials.

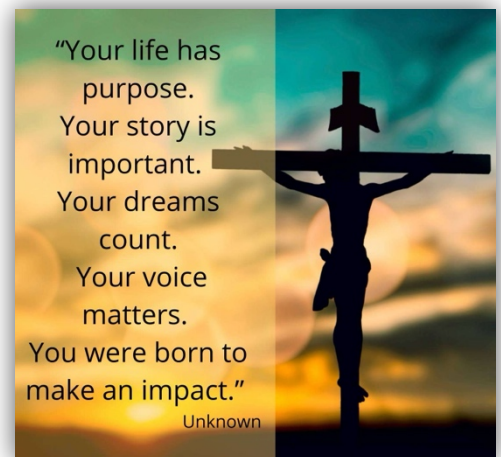
Emma is excited about her plans to attend the University of Notre Dame in Indiana next year!

Following Emma's witness, she took many questions from the parents and children present. Many thanks to Emma and her father Jack, for being our special guests!

Let's all pray for Emma as she continues her faith journey.

"We were so touched by Emma's faith and how even in the most challenging moments, like getting across a new school, or the more challenging moments of back surgeries how these times deepened Emma's faith and impacted her life in such a positive way. My son Adam and his friend Danny expressed how much they enjoyed hearing about Emma's life and journey of faith and how she continues to impact the lives of others in a positive way around her."

Emma exemplified that spark of divinity that lies within each of us. As I add more prayer time to my personal Lent journey, I reflect on that light of God within me. Hearing her different experiences brought even more awareness to how I want to show up as a Christian in my daily life."
With gratitude, Cheryl



Lenten Discipleship Groups: Leaders Share...

The Belonging Project – Finding your Tribe and Learning to Thrive: "When I found this book several months ago, I knew I had to do a Discipleship Group with it. I also knew this would be a perfect study to lead in my home. Boy, was I right! Welcoming these 11 women into my home these past two weeks has been so rewarding. This study is designed to help us build relationships, find



our Tribe, love our God while reading some of the "one another" sayings in the New Testament: Love one another, serve one another, Build-up and strengthen one another, Forgive one another. Did you know there are 52 instances of "one another" in the New Testament? One for each day of the year.

"Our first week was a session for fellowship and getting to know "one another." We shared about our families, our faith journeys, and our friends. We left that evening with full bellies and our "homework" for the next week. When the ladies came back for the second week, they were genuinely happy to see each other and chat before it was time to dive into the video and our homework. We laughed watching the video, which is full of "mom humor." The discussions were incredibly fruitful; I can feel the bond we all have already. I am looking forward to the next three weeks and beyond to see where this Tribe of women goes from here."

— Melissa Fasano

Everyone's Way of the Cross: "Last Thursday, our Discipleship Group held its third session, where we travel with Jesus as He takes the final journey to His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. Our eight disciples have so far walked with Jesus and have engaged in a personal conversation as He makes His way to the Cross. So far, we have touched on Obedience, Encumbered, Weakness, Suffering, Service, Compassion, Perseverance, and Comfort. We have used these topics to discuss our faith journeys, the challenges we face throughout our spiritual lives, and the Lenten season's opportunity to ask God to change our hearts and develop a deeper, more intimate relationship with Him.



"The participants have really connected in our time together and have been actively and enthusiastically engaged in the discussions. It has been a joy getting to know each of them more personally and realizing that we share many of the same experiences and values. As we continue our journey together, we look forward to understanding more fully God's love for us through Jesus's death and how we can respond to His ongoing mission to be faithful, loving, and devout followers."

—Dennis Bloshuk

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults: First Scrutiny

by Laura Balogh, Faith Formation Director

As previously shared, Tricia Young is the only OCIA candidate who will be receiving the Sacrament of Baptism this Easter Vigil. As part of her journey, Tricia has already completed the Rite of Acceptance and the Rite of Election. She is now undergoing a period of Purification and Enlightenment, a time during Lent of more intense spiritual preparation and introspection. This period is marked by three celebrations known as Scrutinies. During the First Scrutiny this past Sunday, Tricia and her godparent, Claire Matlon, were called up to the Sanctuary. First, Tricia knelt, and there was a period of silent prayer. Next, the assembly prayed for Tricia in the following Intercessions for the Elect. Fr. Paddy then prayed that she might reject everything in her life that is contrary to Christ. The Second and Third Scrutinies will take place on the next two Sundays, March 27 and April 3, at the 11:30 am Masses. Tricia and the other candidates (Allie Ferenc, Michael Nemeth, Felicia Apito, and Gianna Korpita) seeking the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation will continue on their journey of preparation.



Do you know anyone interested in becoming Catholic? Please contact Laura Balogh, Faith Formation Director, at: lbalogh@ndcarmel.com or 973-538-1358, ext. 121.



Young Scouts: Crossing Over!

"This past Sunday, in a very symbolic celebration, five young boys -- including parishioners Mikey Chrichiello, Lucas Sapio, Bobby Krimmel, and Blake Ayars -- "Crossed Over" from Cub Scout Pack 40 to Boy Scout Troop 155. Fr. Alex was on hand to say grace and have a little fun!"

"These boys have worked hard advancing through the ranks of the Cub Scouts in their Den; they have earned their religious medals along the way through their commitment to community service. Let us pray for all of them as they join the Boy Scouts and continue their reverence to God in their scouting careers."

— Melissa Fasano



Our young parishioners, their leader Flo Chirichiello, and Fr. Alex's presence and support offer an essential witness of our Catholic faith and values beyond the walls of our parish. May their witness be experiences of grace that spark curiosity and build trust to eventually draw hearts closer to Christ.



No Chocolate, Know Chocolate! Third Sunday of Lent

by Diane Byrne, Elementary Family Faith Coordinator

The "No Chocolate, Know Chocolate" message was shared this past Sunday by Deacon Joe at our 9:30 Family Mass. He showed a cacao pod and explained that within it, there are lots of seeds (not beans!). The cacao seeds can be planted to produce more cacao trees or used to make chocolate. As Deacon Joe explained, we as Christians are just like cacao pods and seeds; who we are on the outside is not important, but who we are on the inside is. When we have Jesus' love on the inside we can reproduce that love to share with others!

Host Families Needed

Our Family Faith Confirmation Retreat will take place on Wednesday evening, April 27, 2022, and will be hosted by NET Ministries. We are in need of host families for the NET Ministries Team Members, as follows:

- The retreat takes place from 6:30 pm until 9:30 pm. We need housing for the 12-14 young adults from NET Ministries following the retreat through the next morning.
- The minimum number per host family is 2 (same gender), and the maximum is 7.
- The hosted team members need a roof over their heads and shower access. Each person has their own sleeping bag and mat, pillow, towel, and toiletries, so floors, couches, or air mattresses work just fine!

Visit our website for more details!



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. Visit our website to find out more and to sign up today.



Consecration of Russia and Ukraine

A message from Bishop Kevin Sweeney

"On March 25, 2022, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, will consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. As the Holy Father seeks the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for peace and an end to bloodshed, we all join in prayer with him in imploring God for the gift of peace in Ukraine. On March 25, 2022, I will celebrate a Bilingual Mass in the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist at 12:00 Noon which will be livestreamed.



"I invite all parishes of our local church of Paterson to join with the Holy Father in prayer on March 25th (at 12 noon, if possible) for this Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart.

As we watch the unfolding of the horror of families torn apart by war and innocents trampled by the hideous weapons of war, we pray that the Blessed Virgin Mary, under the title of her Immaculate Heart, will through her maternal intercession, bring peace and healing to the suffering."

At the 12 Noon Mass this Friday, our parish will join in prayer as our Holy Father consecrates Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

NEW HERE?

Welcome!

We'd love to personally welcome you! Please fill out a Connection Card available in our Gathering Space or on our website at www.ndcarmel.com (click on the "New Here" button).

We look forward to connecting with you!

A - Amazing experience
L - Loving experience
P - Personal experience
H - Happy experience!
A - About the Almighty!

DAVID SAUTER - VIRTUAL ALPHA 4

BELONG
explore


LIFE | FAITH | MEANING



Virtual Alpha


Starts Wednesday, April 20, 2022

Click here to listen to David's full story,
find out more, and register today!

 Catechetical Leaders Association of the Diocese of Paterson

Helping Others Encounter Jesus in the Eucharist

Wednesday
March 23



Welcome Home to Healing Lenten Reconciliation



Mondays: March 7 - April 4
From 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
also available at these times.

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

Saint John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church
60 North Jefferson Rd., Whippany, NJ



NEW DATE! Join us for a special tour!
Saturday, April 2, 2022, 2:00-3:00 pm

MEN'S GROUP



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, March 26th, 8:00-10:00 AM
Downstairs in the Resource Library