

Subject: Parish Update: April 4, 2022

Date: Monday, April 4, 2022 at 5:34:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time

From: Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church

To: Cristina Folan



Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church

Palm Sunday

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

John 12: 13

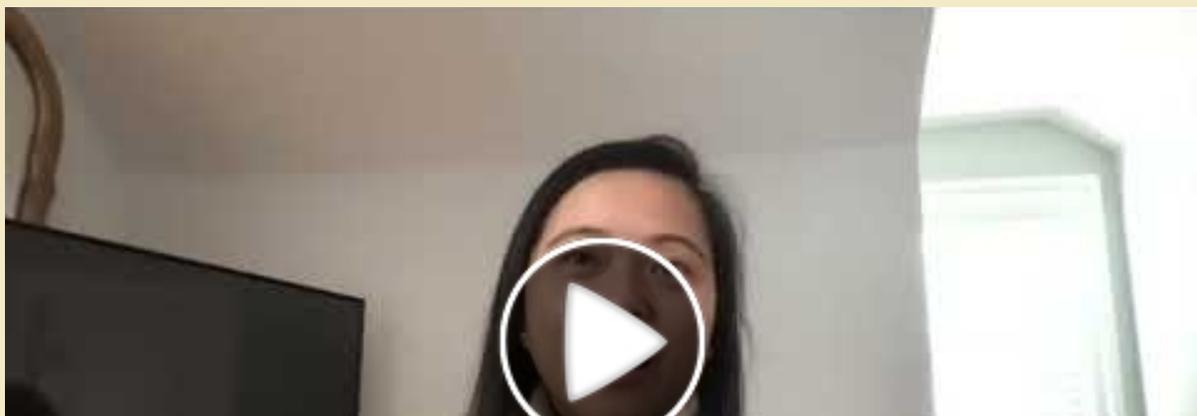
Saturday, April 9: Vigil Mass at 5:00 PM

Sunday, April 10: Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM*, 11:30 AM & 6:00 PM

*Outdoor Procession at 9:15 AM

ALPHA: "This is my story."

This past weekend, our congregations had an opportunity to hear from **Tricia Yeung** and **David Sauter** about Alpha's impact on their lives.





A new Virtual Alpha series begins Wednesday, April 20th, at 7:30 pm.

Consider this opportunity to reignite or uplift your spiritual journey. And if there is a loved one who is distant from their faith or struggling with life, meaning, or purpose, please invite them to Alpha - a safe and non-judgmental space to ask questions, listen, and share their thoughts. Find out more at www.ndcarmel.com/alpha.

No Chocolate, Know Chocolate: Fifth Sunday in Lent

Cherylan Davis and **Jen Cohan** delivered this week's "*No Chocolate, Know Chocolate*" message. With a clever demonstration, they pointed out that once you "mix" Jesus with your heart, much like you mix chocolate with hot water, you can't separate them!



Photography minister Denise Panyik-Dale noted after capturing some beautiful memories at this Mass, *"I was surprised how full the church was. So much good work going on in getting families involved."* Click [HERE](#) to view more pictures.

Marriage Oneness

"Married couples set out towards the land that God promises: to be two in Christ, two in one. Your lives become a single life; you become a 'we' in loving communion with Jesus, alive and present at every moment of your existence." Pope Francis



Jim and Gina Walljasper from our Marriage Ministry are leading five couples in our parish community on the Oneness series: a journey to help couples strengthen their marriages in various areas and support their walk, united as one with Christ.



"My wife and I have become closer as husband and wife through the Oneness lessons. We have also met several great people with who we hope to continue building friendships. If childcare were not offered, we probably would not have been able to participate. Our children have such a great time!" Dan & Marie-Ann Acuri



Order of Christian Initiation for Adults: Church Tour & Third Scrutiny

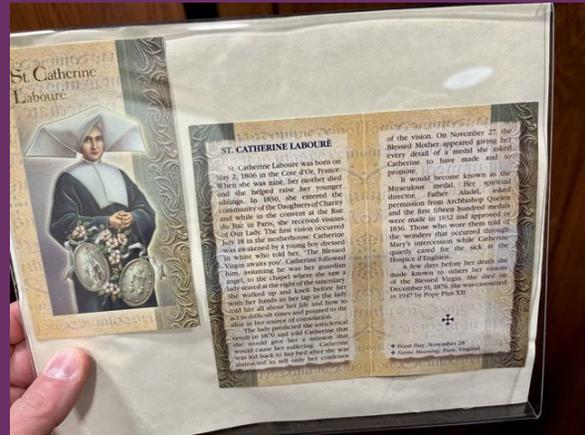
By Laura Balogh, Faith Formation Director

On Tuesday evening Marc Luciani, our Sacristan, led the OCIA group on a Church tour, explaining the history and significance of various areas of our church. Part of the tour included a “behind the scenes” look at the sacristy behind the altar, explaining how he sets up for each Mass each day.





A particularly fascinating part of the tour was the opportunity to view the relic of St. **Catherine Labouré**, a 19th-century French nun most famous for having relayed the request from the Blessed Virgin Mary to create the famous *Miraculous Medal of Our Lady of Graces*.



Thank you, Marc, for offering our candidates such a meaningful insight into our church, liturgy preparation, and faith!

Also, this past Sunday, at the 11:30 am Mass, Fr. Paddy celebrated the Third and final Scrutiny for Tricia Yeung.

Our candidates, Tricia, Allie, Michael, Felicia, and Gianna, are fast approaching their official welcome into the Catholic Church. We look forward to this



beautiful celebration at the Easter Vigil on April 16 at 8 pm.



St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church Tour

by Laura Balogh, Director of Family Faith Formation

Although the parish visit to our neighboring parish, St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, had been scheduled for several months, this event took on special significance in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February. This past Saturday, about 33 people from our parish gathered for a tour given by the Pastor of St John the Baptist, Fr. Stepan Bilyk.



Fr. Stepan offered an overview of the history of the Ukrainian Catholic Church and many significant similarities and differences between our faith traditions. For example, the Ukrainian Catholic Church follows the eastern rite tradition, while we at ND follow the western rite. While we each have our unique style of liturgy, we are both members of the



universal Catholic Church, in full communion with Rome; thus, we may attend liturgy at each other's churches if we choose to.

The beautiful icons that decorate the walls and ceiling of St John are a striking example of the difference in style. Western rite Churches, like Notre Dame, incorporate a lot of statuary in our religious artwork.



While both eastern and western traditions celebrate the same sacraments, each has different ways of administering them. For example, the Eucharist in the eastern tradition is administered using a communion spoon; the person receiving opens their mouth and slightly tips the head. The priest then drops the spoon's contents into the recipient's mouth without the spoon itself touching the lips, teeth, or tongue. Another important difference is that of the clergy. In the western rite, priests must be celibate. However, in the eastern rite, priests are allowed to marry.

We are grateful for Fr. Stepan's kind welcome and hospitality.

"Thank you for the opportunity to experience and encounter the Ukrainian Church religion. It gave my family and me a chance to expand our consciousness. I wish there were more children there among us, so they could learn that we all are one family under the same GOD, just looking at HIM in our own different but special ways. Thank you." Chris Stasiuk



"Father Stepan was kind and welcoming in walking us through their history and unique traditions. I was moved most not by the differences, but by the realization that they are our fellow Catholics in every way and that we are fully part of the same community of faith." Ed Newlands

"My visit to St. John the Baptist Ukrainian church was informative and beautiful. Rev. Stephen Bilyk was knowledgeable about the similarities and differences between our Roman Catholic traditions and theirs. Rev. Stephen showed the group many beautiful icons and paintings in the sanctuary and invited us to attend a service. I loved learning about our Christian neighbors." Dee Wayland

Life Night with Confirmation Prep: Office Olympics

It was an exciting and fun Sunday evening when the Youth Ministry Team treated the Confirmation Prep candidates to a **LifeTeen Social Night**, consisting of a series of "Office Olympics" games inspired by the former TV series, *The Office*.



Kickoff started in true Olympic spirit with a lighting of the Olympic Flame. Next, each of the five tables received a team name in line with the TV series, such as *Team Jimbo*, *the Schrutzers*, & *Pam Pam*. Some examples of the games were *M & M Relay*, *Trashcan Basketball*, *Count the Kisses* (guessing for the number of Hershey Kisses in a large jar), and the really tough *Flonkerton*, in which participants strapped their shoes into 20-pound boxes of copier paper and "walked" them across the hallway!



The exciting moment came with the "Closing Ceremonies," which included each team receiving their medals (*Jimbo*, gold, *Boss Scott*, silver; and *Pam Pam*, bronze) and playing the Star-Spangled Banner!



Fr. Alex closed out the evening by extending an invitation to the teens to be part of Youth Ministry. Father stressed that our greatest wish is for them to feel that Notre Dame is their home and have a safe place to discuss important questions and concerns they may have about life and their faith. Future Life Nights will include similar **Social Nights**, **Issue Nights** (to discuss essential issues teens face in today's world), and **Catechetical Nights** (focusing on different teachings and aspects of our Catholic faith). Upon adjourning for the evening, the group was invited to the 6 pm Youth Mass, followed by a special pizza dinner for anyone interested in remaining.

Thank you, Fr. Alex and the entire Youth Ministry Team, for all of your hard work to make this event a success!!

Lenten Discipleship Groups: Leaders' Sharings Continue

He Leadeth Me:

"I wanted to experience the book amongst others - to learn, grow and connect through Fr. Ciszek's raw witness and humbly offered truths. Yet because the book is a powerhouse of "simple truths" in the context of grave suffering, I was uncertain if others would join me, let alone continue if they began. As usual, God has certainly taken care of it. With a nice number of disciples, we have shared open and honest accompaniment of each other right from the start. Though a few participants have dropped out, their choice is respected, and they and their Lenten journeys remain in our prayers. Our group grows in community each week. Meanwhile, each week, I thank the group and their commitment to it and the material.



Despite the deepness of the "simple truths" and Fr. Ciszek's testimony, they continue the road to Calvary with him, each other, and ultimately Christ. With our individual and collective journeys, we are teaching and learning from one another the "simple truths" and how to take up our cross(es) and follow Christ (Mt. 16:24). Fr. Ciszek provides a blueprint on how we can carry our crosses. With him as our guide in the Lenten community, we allow God to tenderize our parched, hardened, and thirsty hearts, renewing them for Him."-- Peg Buck

Bible Stories and Great Works of Art:

"This faith journey through great art based on stories in the Bible has been a wonderful experience, strengthening me as a leader both spiritually and intellectually. Maybe that's why I have repeated this program for seven or eight years. In the words of Bishop Robert Barron, "Art can be a route of access to God."



My interest in leading a discipleship program goes back to when my wife Chris and I co-led the eight-week Bible timeline a few times. Following our vacation trip to Italy in 2013 with

visits to the Vatican and other churches and museums throughout Italy, I became inspired to learn more about sacred art history. Once I located excellent sources of information, including high-quality video clips featuring knowledgeable art historians, I was moved by the Holy Spirit to want to share. At the time, Deacon Ron and Jean Pankow encouraged me to develop a discipleship program. In the early years, Chris and I co-led. I introduce new works of art with each session, but some, like the Sistine Chapel ceiling, the statue of David, The Last Supper by Leonardo, and Michelangelo's Pieta, are included each time. One can never tire of experiencing these and other great works that help to strengthen our faith and teach us God's word." -- Carl Schlotfeldt

Blessing Bags: Can you help?

Any size package!

- Shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes
- Socks
- Men's undershirts
- Soap
- Washcloths
- Band-aids



You may drop off items in the tubs placed at both entrances to our building through Sunday, April 10th. Bless you, for your generosity!

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.

HAPPENING...

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

**Parishioner
Announcements**



Holy Week & Easter

Schedule

CLICK HERE



The Cherubs are back!

And we are calling children 3-5 years old
to be a part of this special choir!



Come to a rehearsal

Wednesday, April 6th at 5:30 pm in Room 201

The Cherubs will sing a prelude song at the
9:30 am Family Mass on Easter Sunday, April 17th.

Let us know your Cherub(s) will be joining us!

RSVP: Nicole Payne-Venezia at
nicole.danielle313@gmail.com

Fr. Alex presents:

*Holy Week:
Learn More!*



Wednesday, April 6th 7 - 8 pm
In the church

Join us as Fr. Alex offers an overview of Holy Week, sharing about each day, including the Sacred Triduum, what each day commemorates and why we celebrate this week as we do in our Catholic tradition.

Operation Appalachia Information Session

Wednesday, April 6, 7:30 PM in the Upper Room

Come and learn more about our mission trip and find out how you can get involved!

All are welcome (entering 9th grade and up)! We are always looking for new members to help with fundraising and/or to attend our summer mission trip. You do not need to have any construction background or ability; there is something for everyone.

Click [HERE](#) to find out more!



We've all had the experience of putting something together only to have to take it apart and start over. That's ok if it's only a gas grill, but it's not okay if it's your life.

Your career... Your marriage... Your dreams.....



The 4-session series begins
Wednesday **April 20, 7:00 to 8:30 pm**
in the Upper Room
with remaining sessions held every other Wednesday,
May 4th, May 18th, and June 1st.

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

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Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications

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