

Melissa Fasano

From: mail@flocknote.com on behalf of Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church
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Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 1:58 PM
To: Melissa Fasano
Subject: Parish Update: March 21, 2023



NOTRE DAME OF MT. CARMEL
PARISH UPDATE

MARCH 21, 2023

The Godly Quality of Generosity

iDisciple

"Generosity is an attitude of sharing gladly whatever we might have, regardless of wealth. Scripture reveals liberality is an attribute of God (see Deut. 28:12 and Eph. 3:20). And as part of His transformative plan for believers, the Father desires that we develop a generous spirit."



"A bighearted approach to our time and material goods starts by giving ourselves to God. When we accept that He owns everything, we can hold our small share with an open hand. But the choice to nurture generosity is based on our trust. Instead of adding figures to see what little amount might safely be set aside for charity, Christians should give sacrificially by faith. Hebrews 13:16 (NIV) tells us, "Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." The Lord responds by supplying enough to cover the gift and our own need (Luke 6:38). Only through giving do we learn that we can never outgive God."



"Some believers choose selfishness and rebellion, but God promised a form of poverty—whether financial, emotional, or spiritual—to those who do. Instead, make a decision today to cultivate a generous spirit for the Lord."



We are grateful for the generosity of many in our community, for their commitment to share their time, talent and treasure in countless ways. These Parish Updates are indeed a bright reflection of such generosity, bringing forth the gifts of many upfront and behind the scenes.

Wherever we may be in terms of generosity, may we make the decision today to cultivate that spirit of generous giving for the Lord.

Funding the Mission

"Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so

*doing some people have shown hospitality to angels
without knowing it."*

Hebrews 13:1-2



We are grateful to those who responded to our most recent request to join our Welcoming & Hospitality Ministry. Your gift of time, smile, and welcoming hearts are vital to our mission!



"To be hospitable is to welcome a person with open arms, with an open heart, and with an open door; it is an openness to care for and love others, putting their needs before our own to ensure, at the very least, that they feel welcome in our midst. Fulfilling the Bible's command to be hospitable in the local church is the responsibility of every Christian."
Nick Kennicott



Whether or not you are a member of our Welcoming Ministry, be inspired to share a welcoming spirit! Offering a friendly greeting and opening up an opportunity for conversation could be the touch the Holy Spirit will use to impact a person's faith life or family. When we seek those opportunities intentionally, the Lord will bring fruitfulness to our efforts -- in their lives and ours!

God's Family Tree

By Diane Byrne, Elementary Family Faith Coordinator

For Sunday's ***God's Family Tree*** presentation, the Rizos family spoke about the stump of Jesse. The stump used to be a tree and is sprouting a new branch. The branch represents new life continuing from the root of the old tree. Jesse was the father of a man named David. It was through David's children that God sent Jesus.



During Lent, we remember that by faith, we are connected to all the people of faith who have come before us; we are part of God's Family. So, the stump reminds us of our connection to the past and the stories of people who trusted God. The shoot on the stump of Jesse symbolizes the promise of eternal life that comes to us through Jesus. When we choose to belong to Christ, we are granted new life. Not only are we connected to the past, but we also have the promise of eternal life.

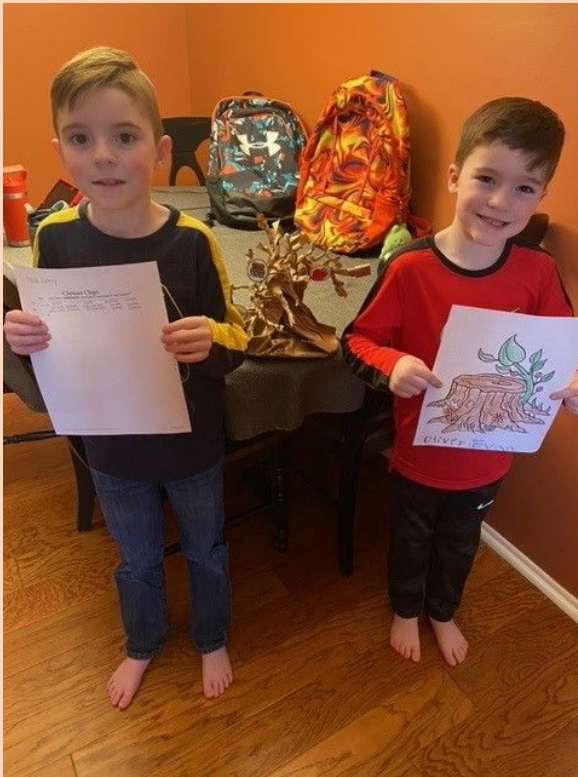


"Our family was very happy to participate in the God's Family Tree presentation, sharing about the stump of Jesse. Our girls practiced their parts, and no one was as excited as newly four-year-old Maggie, who joyfully proclaimed her line, "Yes, the Messiah is Jesus!"

We love the opportunity to serve as a family, fully supported by the Family Faith team. We expected to present with a small picture of a stump and were amazed by the real stump, carefully adorned with a "new shoot" lovingly provided by Maria Cascio. The care and dedication of Diane, Maria, and the team are always evident, and we are so thankful for their service!" The Rizos family



What happens at church should NOT stay at church! As part of the **God's Family Tree** Lenten series, families were asked to make a tree from a paper bag and to complete two activities at home each week; one to help with a home discussion on the previous Sunday's presentation and one to prepare them for the upcoming one.



Pictured above is Evan O'Keefe holding a "choices chart," which families were asked to create after we heard about Adam and Eve and original sin; his brother Oliver is holding a "stump of Jesse" picture to help prepare for the talk about David. Their tree is also in the image!

Please continue to pray for our ministry and core team as we strive to make the Family Mass a fruitful experience of **encounter** for our young families, and help equip parents to lead their children in faith at home and in all aspects of their day-to-day living.

Lenten Discipleship Group Updates

The Enneagram: A Journey of Personal & Spiritual Growth



Not pictured Beth Letizia and Betsa Silvestri

"We entered this Lenten journey together to understand ourselves better. Yet together, we have begun to see the suffering found deep within each of us when we lose sight of the spiritual truth in which God created us. We've had fun learning our personal Enneagram number by avoiding getting caught up in a word that labels us; therefore, we used candy to distract us from these negative labels. This exercise widened our circle of concern to include the suffering of others that we did not realize before studying the Enneagram. Because of our lack of understanding, many of us admitted that we may have avoided or judged harshly another person for lack of understanding of their spiritual truth. Because of this new insight, this Lent, our group is gaining an understanding of how to spiritually support ourselves and

others. We may not have given up chocolate this Lent, but we have opened our hearts and souls to be less judgemental towards ourselves and others." Beth Letizia

Making Room for God: Decluttering and the Spiritual Life



"Leading this amazing group on Saturday mornings has been such a blessing. We have been drawing closer to our wonderful Lord each week - as we draw closer to each other. We have been experiencing laughter and vulnerability - as we support each other on this journey during Lent. We have also been very productive! As we have been "decluttering internally" and making more room for God, we have been filling up bags and bags of stuff as we "declutter externally." We have been moving deeper in our faith walk this Lent as we explore new ways to live in our "spirit" and less in our "flesh." Decluttering has been a beautiful addition this Lent to fasting, praying, and almsgiving. I am so grateful for this opportunity. Praise God!" Patty Allocca

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

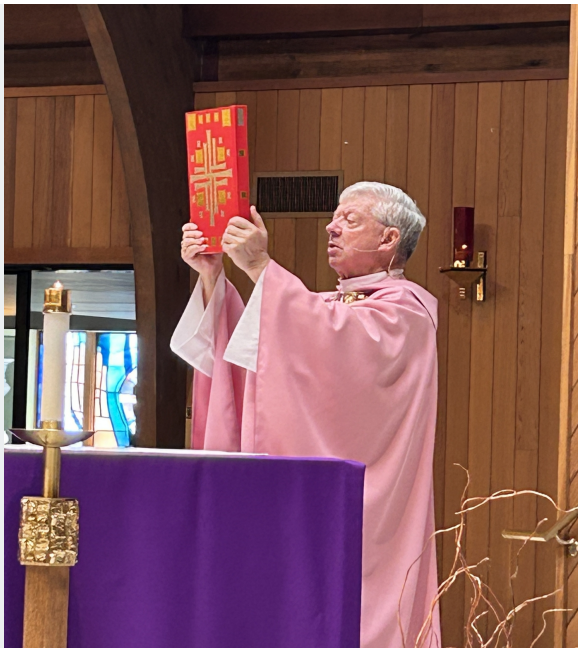
**Parishioner
Announcements**

JOB BOARD & LOCAL AREA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Memories that share our story...

11:30 Mass





"I felt the need to reach out to thank you. Your music is always beautiful. In fact, it was one of the main things that drew me to Notre Dame when I moved back to north Jersey last summer.

Today, I was grieving a dear friend, Fr. Dan Kelly, who passed away this week. Fr. Dan was a priest in the Diocese of Paterson who truly loved music and understood the importance of it in the liturgy. He was certainly smiling down on you all today! I had never heard of "He Will Hold Me Fast" before. I was so moved by your choice of that song on this day... The choir and cellist could not have sounded more beautiful. True prayer. You made my heart lighter, and I am grateful for your wonderful work!"

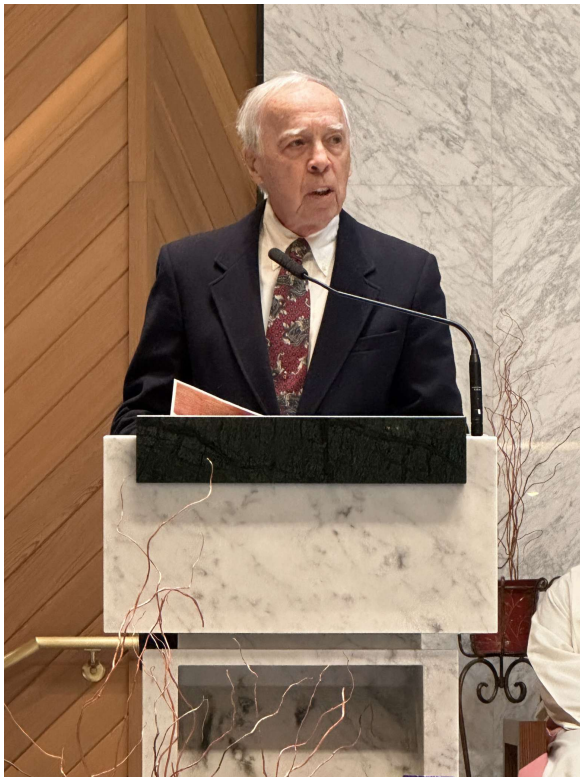
Christine Driskill





Family Mass







Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications

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