

Melissa Fasano

From: mail@flocknote.com on behalf of Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church
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Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2023 12:50 PM
To: Melissa Fasano
Subject: Parish Update: June 20, 2023



New Parishioner Gathering

This past Saturday morning, a gathering was held in the Rectory to welcome those recently registered with our parish. What a joy for our priests and some of our staff and ministry members to connect more personally with those who could participate.



Conversations were ongoing, joy-filled, and insightful! It was wonderful to see that in just a short period of time, several of these folks have already experienced a number of events, programs, and spiritual opportunities here at Notre Dame.



"It was a beautiful morning and a great opportunity to get to know our newer parishioners. I was inspired by all that I met and really feel blessed to see our parish growing with talented, beautiful people who humbly seek to strengthen their relationship with God. I look forward to our shared growth and faith experiences at Notre Dame. A special

thanks to Fr. Paddy and Fr. Alex for opening their home to us; we are very blessed by their love, warm hospitality, and leadership." Joe Orecchio



*"What a wonderful community I've found in Notre Dame. Looking forward to many more years of fellowship!"
Maureen Swan*

*"Thank you, Parish Staff, for inviting me to this morning's gathering. It was so nice to connect with familiar as well as new members of our church. We grow spiritually when we connect with the body of Christ. This gathering was sweet as it was refreshing. Thank you, Notre Dame. Keep up the great work!!"
Patty Allocca*



Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders ***"Our Son Lucas's Journey Continues"***

By Ken & Cristina Folan

Our journey here at Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel began nearly 21 years ago! At the time, our oldest, Mitchell, was six, Lucas was four, and Teresa was two. We see so clearly our Lord's hand in our journey and how He continues to reveal His plan for us. Thinking of all the joys and challenges we have experienced, we can't imagine journeying without the Real Presence of Christ in our lives, the gift of our faith, and this extraordinary community of faith.

We wish to express the depth of gratitude we feel for the love, support, and prayers so many of your hearts have lifted throughout the years for our family and especially in the most recent couple of years for Lucas during his journey toward the Priesthood.



On July 2nd, Bishop Kevin will confer Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders for Lucas. Then on July 18th, Lucas will travel to Rome for four years to pursue a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology (STB). Our hearts are torn between the joy of our son's genuine and holy desire to follow our Lord in this vocation and the sense of his more official "departure" from our family toward a path like no other -- with countless challenges and the expectation of complete surrender, servitude, and holiness. We stand in faith, trusting the Lord will walk with Lucas every step of His plan for him.

We humbly ask and thank you in advance for your continued prayers for Lucas and our family.

Women's Guided Meditation: A Gift of 16+ Years of Ministry

Approximately 17 years ago, parishioner and spiritual retreat facilitator Gail Mertz was asked to offer an Advent Meditation to women in the parish. The evident impact of the experience and of Gail's faith and gifts on the women who participated led to what has been known for many years as Women's Guided Meditation. In this monthly event, Gail has led participants in an hour-long, peaceful space of Christ-centered meditation, prayer, and reflection.



After this long journey of ministering to our women in this unique way, Gail is stepping back as she discerns our Lord's next call in her life. At their last gathering on June 14, participants honored Gail and showed appreciation for her love, faith, and commitment to the ministry.



We are so grateful for Gail's long-term ministry and investment of time, talent, and treasure throughout the years in the discipleship of so many women. May the Lord bless this gifted and humble leader abundantly in her continued mission of bringing others to the peace of Christ.

Conversations are underway as we discern how the Lord might continue to bring fruitfulness in the form of a monthly gathering for women. We pray for the Holy Spirit to move the called hearts into leadership and open new paths for discipling the women in our faith community.

Discipleship Group: The Journey Continues

By Erica Jackson

This past Lent, I was asked to lead a discipleship group. I had an idea of something that I wanted to share, but I had no experience leading a group - let alone a group at a new church! I thought about it, I prayed about it, and I ultimately decided to share the video series *Metanoia*, by Fr. Dave Pivonka. We met weekly for six weeks during Lent.



Participants wanted to continue gathering after our six sessions, so we met for five more weeks to finish the 11-episode video series! Through those 11 weeks, we laughed together. We prayed together. We grew together. And we shared: our ideas, opinions, and life experiences. This group quickly became friends; we became this little church family. We continue to email each other, pray for each other and be there for one another as much as possible. This past Monday, we got together to attend Mass and celebrate a 95th birthday!



I'm not sure that I can put into words what this experience has meant to me, but I am so happy that I said yes. I'm so blessed to know these people. And they have blessed me so much through this experience!



2023 Life Teen Conference Takeaways

Fr. Alex, Laura Balogh (Director of Family Faith), and Q (Director of Youth Ministry & Contemporary Worship) recently attended the 2023 Life Teen Conference. They will share some of their takeaways through our weekly updates.



Laura Balogh: *Being among the 500+ energetic and faith-filled participants was a real blessing. This was my first time, and I was immediately struck by the faith, joy, and kindness of the entire group, which included Youth Ministers, Clergy, and those involved in Faith Formation ministry. It was wonderful to meet others accompanying parents and children in the faith, and sharing our stories and challenges. I felt a great sense of hope knowing that we are not alone in our work, and I intend to follow up with several people who share my role in the coming months.*

The smaller breakout sessions were especially impactful and informative: “Holy Help: Helping Teens Grow in Reverence” was a standout example. I learned methods of communicating with our teens more concisely, celebrating small “wins,”

and how to provide feedback effectively when needed. Another session was about engaging teens in liturgy, prayer, and the Sacraments. We learned that Youth Ministry must be Christocentric: as St. John Paul II tells us, "At the heart of catechesis we find, in essence, a Person, the Person of Jesus of Nazareth, and the only Son from the Father...." Prayer is vital for our children, parents, and faith leaders, and we need to offer not only prayer opportunities, like Adoration and the Rosary, but also model prayer ourselves as leaders. It was interesting to hear that those who are brought to a meaningful "mountaintop" experience on a weekly basis will have an 80 percent chance of remaining in the faith their entire lives!

We have a lot of work to do! I feel very grateful for this opportunity; I feel a renewed excitement to start utilizing what we learned to help our parents and children grow in their faith and bring them closer to Jesus.

Our Summer Choir is Coming Back!

By Music Director, Jim Keefe

Have you ever considered singing with our music ministry? If so, we have an exciting opportunity for you in July: Our Summer Choir Program is coming back! It will run for four Saturdays beginning on Saturday, July 8. All ages are invited to meet here at 4 pm. Participants will rehearse for an hour, then stay and sing for 5 pm Mass.

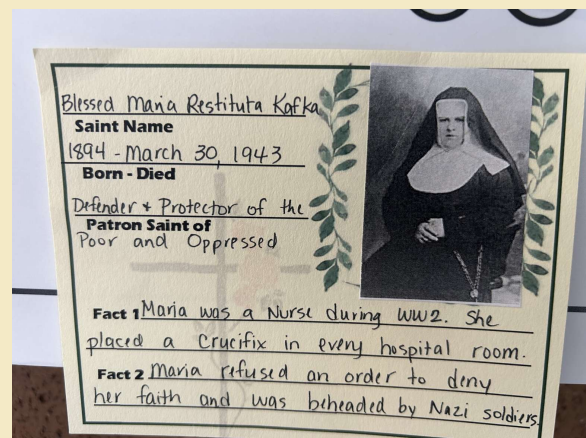
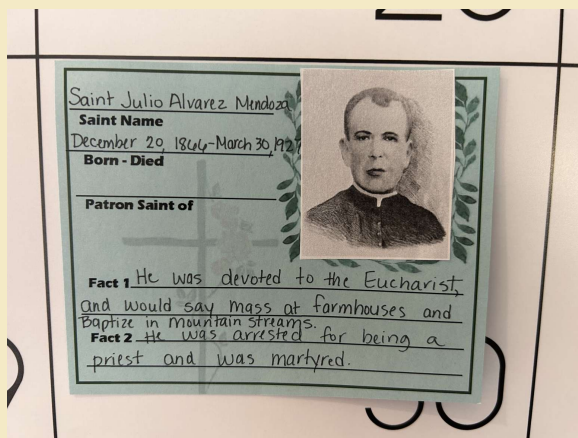


This choir is on a "drop-in" basis: You can come for one Saturday, two Saturdays, or all four Saturdays. No audition, registration, or commitment is required; just a

willingness to "give it a try" and see if you like it. Hope to see you here on Saturday the 8th at 4 pm!

Catholic Saints Birthday Project

Our Catholic Saints Birthday Project continued with twins Braeden and Kyleigh sharing at our Family Mass about their selected saints, **Saint Julio Alvarez Mendoza** and **Blessed Maria Restituta Kafka**.



Moms & Tots: Another Year in the Books!

This past Wednesday, our Moms & Tots held their last session for this ministry year!



We offer our deepest gratitude to "Miss Lisa" Vecchio (now in her 17th year of leading Moms & Tots) continues to nourish our tots and their moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, and/or caregivers in this faith, music, and fun-filled weekly time!



"Wednesdays became one of my favorite days when I started taking my granddaughter to Moms and Tots with Miss Lisa. It gave me the opportunity to introduce her to the love for our Lord Jesus Christ through song and dance. Miss Lisa makes every class fun and engaging and makes each child feel welcome and special. Overall, it's a great environment for the children to socialize with each other and learn about the goodness of God." Sallyann Augello



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

**Parishioner
Announcements**

Memories that share our story...

Adult Choir Choral Mediation at 11:30 Mass



Family Mass





The Flock (Knitting & Crocheting Ministry)





Interested? All are welcome, no matter your skill level or lack thereof! Their next gathering will be next Monday, June 26, at 7pm!



Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications

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