

**Melissa Fasano**

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**From:** mail@flocknote.com on behalf of Notre Dame of Mount Carmel Church  
<mail@flocknote.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 27, 2024 5:19 PM  
**To:** Melissa Fasano  
**Subject:** Parish Update: February 27, 2024



*Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church*  
*Cedar Knolls NJ*

## **Parish Update**

### **February 27, 2024**

**Parish Pastoral Council: Off to a Fruitful Start!**

**By Fr. Paddy**



*Last Wednesday evening, we experienced an amazing gathering of disciples of Jesus, ready and willing to take on the task of leading our parish forward. I was deeply inspired by everyone's witness, our listening to one another's stories, and the thoughtful articulation of hopes and dreams for Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel.*



*In particular, the presence and voices of teens Tessa and Gustavo filled the space with so much joy and hope for our young people today and in the years to come.*



*I believe everyone's attentiveness and acknowledgment of their insights and viewpoints affirmed that we see them, hear them, value them, and need them to move forward on our mission of reaching the young people within and beyond the walls of our parish.*

*While not anticipating it so promptly, the impact of the council's leadership has already come through with great enthusiasm! One of the new council members suggested that meeting every other month, per the published guidelines, would not offer enough opportunity for the council to be fruitful, to which several members concurred. With majority agreement, the guidelines have been updated to monthly meetings!*





*"What happened at our first gathering brings to life the poem by Hafiz, "The Seed Cracked Open." We, the council, are on a collective mission of "love mischief," willing to put our talents and our soul's deepest desire to work for this parish that each of us is fully invested in." Beth Letizia*



*"I am privileged and blessed to have been chosen to serve the parish. I look forward to building upon this great faith community!" Greg Ellmer*



*"I enjoyed learning about each member's background, the different faith journeys, and distinct experiences at ND. However, the group felt cohesive, united by the desire to see our parish flourish. Most notable was the presence of the council's two teens, Tessa and Gustavo; hearing from them gave me hope. I heard amazing ideas I would like to bring to fruition. Effecting change, especially on behalf of the people, would give me joy." Christa Cottone*





*"The new PPC met for the first time on the heels of Fr. Paddy's retirement announcement. Periods of transition are often tinged with uncertainty, anxiety, and fear. But they are also opportunities for transformation and growth. Being a new member of the council is an honor and privilege. On Wednesday, the presence of the Holy Spirit was palpable in a room filled with devout disciples. I walked away with total certainty that we will navigate the potentially turbulent waters because Jesus will be with us, calming them." Dan Balogh*



*"It was exhilarating and humbling to be with so many dedicated and 'Filled with the Holy Spirit' members of our Parish's Pastoral Council. The newest members bring enhanced perspectives and talents to the PPC. As both Fr. Paddy and I will soon leave the PPC, I feel confident that this new PPC will continue and further our parish's journey of Missionary Discipleship." Mike Letterese*



*"What struck me first about the council was the variety of representation across demographics. There were some dedicated members who received all their sacraments at this parish, while others registered more recently, like myself. Nonetheless, there was a spirit of togetherness in the room, a shared desire for both vision and action. It was very special to be included in such a room of people who have Christ at the center of their lives and who are working to bring Him to others." Jessika Caruso*



*"I love our parish; I draw strength and encouragement from our parish family as we grow together in faith. I feel blessed and honored to serve on the Parish Pastoral Council, and I hope that I can, in some small way, help others feel encouraged to explore, live, and share their faith at a deeper level. Our inaugural meeting affirmed that we are united in "one Lord, one faith, one baptism." We all (young, old, and older!) spoke of a desire to work together in fellowship, to invite others to "come and see." Jen Qvotrup*

## **Guatemala Outreach: Exciting Announcement!**

**By Ken Folan, Guatemala Outreach Core Team Member**

*"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jer. 29:11*

*In 2020, COVID-19 put a pause on our annual mission to build homes in Guatemala in partnership with the From Houses to Homes (FHTH) organization. A few of us managed to travel and build on our own since then, but*



*we have found it challenging to resume the ministry as we had done in the past. We remain grateful for the support the parish continues to offer, especially towards the education of young Axel Danilo and several other children at the FHTH Kemna 'Oj School.*

*Trusting in the plans our Lord has for this ministry, it seems the time has come. Filled with great hope and anticipation, we are embarking on a planning journey to travel this August and resume the ministry of building homes for families in need.*



## Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel 2024 GUATEMALA OUTREACH Info Session!

Friday,  
March 8th,  
6 pm.  
Resource Rm.

We are excited to resume this August our Guatemala Outreach mission of building shelter for those in need in areas nearby Antigua, Guatemala.

Join us for this **Information Session** and learn how, in just one week, lives can be changed through this ministry... including yours!



Visit our website at [www.ndcarmel.com/guatemala-outreach](http://www.ndcarmel.com/guatemala-outreach) for more details or contact Ken Folan at [kenfolan@gmail.com](mailto:kenfolan@gmail.com)

*As a returning missionary, I yearn to reconnect with those who have been part of the ministry in the past, from parishioners and friends to the FHTH workers and the beautiful Guatemalan people. Our core team is especially looking forward to*

welcoming new people to the planning journey and, most importantly, the experience and opportunity to serve our brothers and sisters in need.

*As it has been proven over and over again, in just one week, lives can be transformed through this ministry... including ours! Please consider joining us at the information session and see what plans the Lord has for you!*

## Grandparents On Mission

As Pope Francis reminds us, ***"God has a large population of grandparents throughout the world ... They are the indispensable link in educating children and young people in the faith!"***

We love to hear stories of how grandparents in our community go on mission, not only serving our young children through ministries but also impacting the faith life of their own grandchildren.





*"My grandchildren (twins aged 4 1/2) attended Mass here a couple of weekends ago. They love attending Mass at Notre Dame, seeing friends, listening to Fr. Alex's homilies, and most recently learning about Lent with the Lentopoly game.*



*When they were here that last time, they realized they hadn't seen Fr. Paddy and asked me where he was. They both told me they missed him! I let them know he was on vacation, which, of course, sparked a whole conversation. They wanted me to text Fr. Paddy to let him know they missed him and hoped his vacation was good! When they were going to bed Sunday night, Anthony told his Mom, "Mommy, I love Nana's church because God is there!"*

*I feel very blessed to occasionally have the opportunity to bring them to Mass or VBS. It fills my heart with joy when they ask questions about*

*something they heard during Mass or an event, and we continue the conversation." Patty Strunck*

## **Family Faith: Our Lenten Traditions**

**By Diane Byrne, Elementary Family Faith Coordinator**

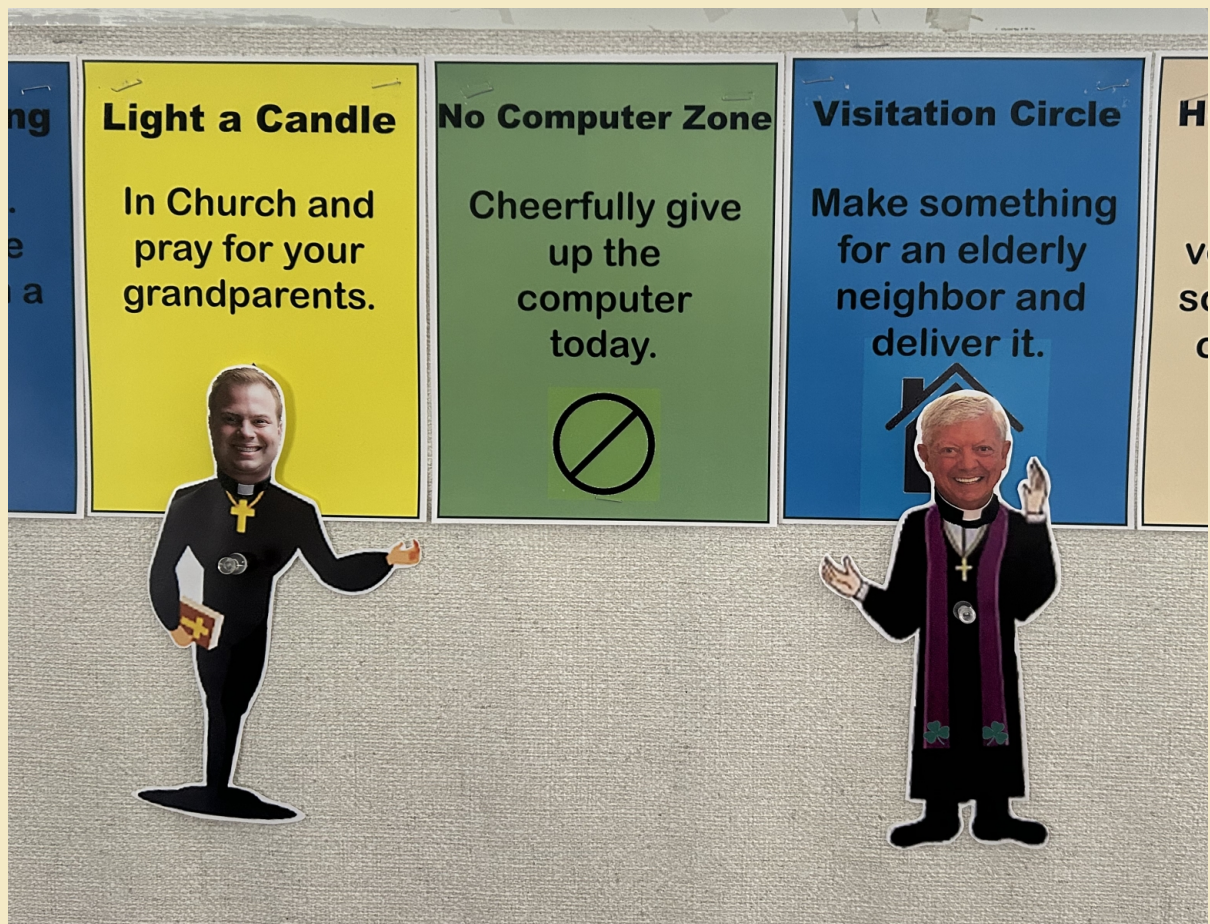
*This past Sunday, Millie and Betsy Rizos, supported by their mother, Julia, and brother, Paul, spoke about a Lenten tradition their family observes at home. Whenever a child in the family does something good, like listening to their parent the first time or helping a sibling, they get to put a bean in a jar. As Lent progresses, the amount of beans in the jar grows. Sometimes, the family has to find a bigger jar! On Easter Sunday, the beans become jellybeans for the family to enjoy!*





*And on the Lentopoly front...*







*Don't forget, our Lentopoly landings are invitations for all in the parish community, and you'll even get to earn a heart to place on our cross!*

## **Preparing for Lent: A Special Experience**

**By Mary Malone, Special Needs Catechist,**

*During our special needs faith formation lesson earlier this month, we began teaching our students about Lent. We started by watching a video about Ash Wednesday and what they can anticipate that day. We described the service and how each of us will have the opportunity to receive ashes. We gave all the children a picture of a child with a cross made of ashes on their forehead so they could see what it would look like. We asked the parents to make the Sign of the Cross on their child's forehead so they would know how it would feel when they received their ashes on Ash Wednesday. Each child then had fun coloring their picture to look like them.*



*We talked about Holy Thursday and how Jesus washed the feet of his disciples on that day. Erica demonstrated what that looked like by asking the children if they would like to have their feet washed. The students loved participating and helping! In our next class, we will talk about Good Friday and Easter Sunday.*



## **Knights' Happenings**

By Dennis Fashano

*The Elizabeth Ann Council was seen recently Bagging for Charity at the Shop Rite of Greater Morristown.*





*Over two dozen Knights worked hard from 10 am to 4 pm at the registers with two additional tables outside the store's entrances. The Council raised \$2,425 for the charitable causes it supports, such as scholarships and the Intellectually Challenged Drive.*



## **Family Faith: Mass Transit Conversations**

*(Comments reflect previous Sundays' celebrations)*

***What was one new insight the homily gave you?***

***Was there something special you noticed at Mass today?***

*"We should remember who we are and not worry about what others think."*

*"God gives us gifts and will open the door for us."*

*"To remember we are not alone when we're scared or tempted."*

*"In other religions, you almost drown during baptism."*

*"To remember the day you are baptized."*

*"God loves us all in different ways."*

*"Not to be selfish."*

*"God is always there to help me."*

*"Have our actions match our words."*

*"To follow Jesus as the fishermen were encouraged to do."*

*"To do everything under the grace and mercy of God."*

*"To be like Father Damien and reach out to those that are lonely."*

*"That Lent is starting and to forgive people."*

*"Be kind to those who are outcasts."*

*"Fr. Alex flies a small plane."*

*"Don't judge people based on their looks."*

*"The giant monopoly board and that I left my coat at church last time."*

*"There were sisters from Don Bosco. This is the same order that our cousin Sister Carmen belongs to. We said hello and said a prayer with them after Mass."*

*"This is such a beautiful church. So many people."*

*"Father Paddy announced his retirement (we will miss him!)"*

*"Father Alex flies planes as a hobby, and my daddy loves airplanes too!"*

*"We liked Ms. Diane's lesson after mass."*

*"No."*

*"I read prayers of the faithful at mass."*

*"We read Scripture in our Hotel Room."*

*"The songs were good."*

*"Timmy was an altar server."*

*"New lead singer in the chorus."*

*"This was the first time I attended 6 pm mass. It was so nice to hear the music (contemporary)."*

*"Grandma was EM."*

*"Audrey was on the altar."*

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

**Parishioner  
Announcements**

***Memories that share our story...***



*Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Blessing of  
the Tri-Color*



7:30 am Mass





## *Family Mass*





Sent by Cristina Folan - Communications

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