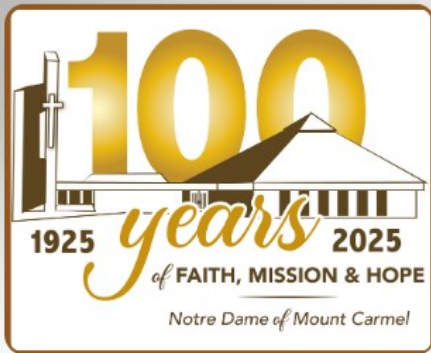


Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church

PARISH UPDATE

www.ndcarmel.com



NOTRE DAME OF MT. CARMEL CHURCH

75 Ridgedale Avenue
Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927
973-538-1358

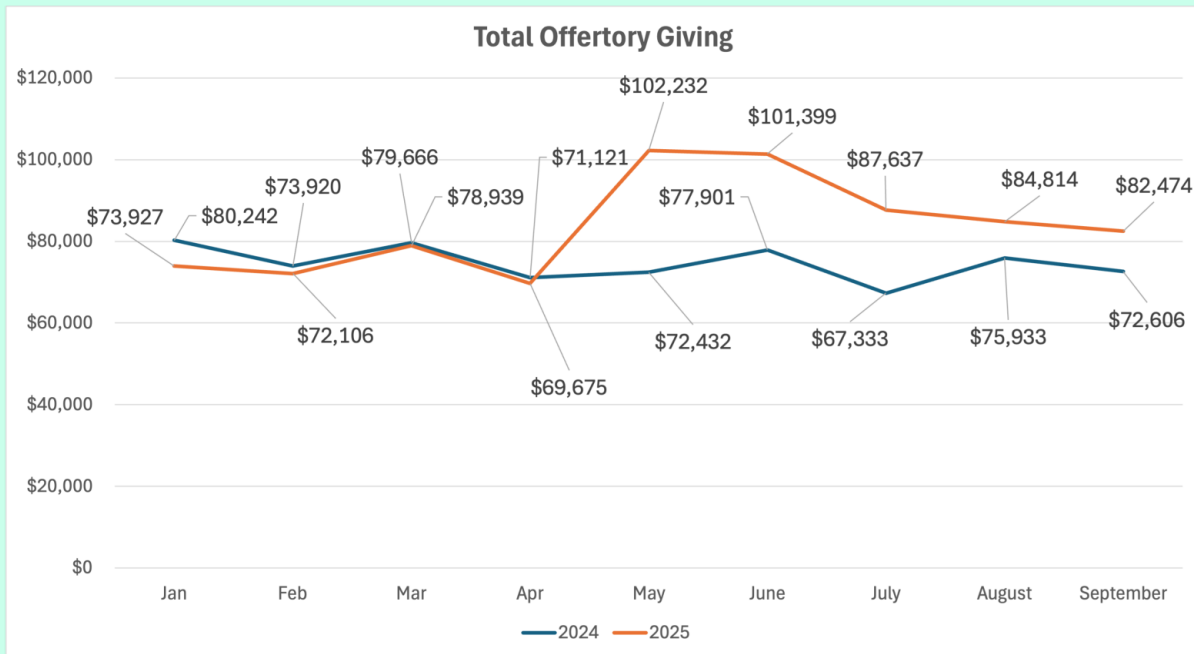
www.ndcarmel.com

Parish Update: October 14, 2025

Finance Update: Monthly Offertory Collections



OSV	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	August	September
2024	\$40,027	\$41,562	\$40,589	\$40,817	\$44,099	\$43,821	\$40,013	\$44,055	\$40,782
2025	\$36,756	\$42,503	\$40,904	\$37,966	\$48,507	\$46,012	\$42,953	\$50,932	\$42,617
Offline	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	August	September
2024	\$40,215	\$32,358	\$39,077	\$30,304	\$28,333	\$34,080	\$27,320	\$31,878	\$31,824
2025	\$37,171	\$29,603	\$38,035	\$31,709	\$53,725	\$55,387	\$44,684	\$33,882	\$39,857
TOTAL	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	August	September
2024	\$80,242	\$73,920	\$79,666	\$71,121	\$72,432	\$77,901	\$67,333	\$75,933	\$72,606
2025	\$73,927	\$72,106	\$78,939	\$69,675	\$102,232	\$101,399	\$87,637	\$84,814	\$82,474



We are deeply grateful for the continued generosity of our parish family. Your faithful stewardship is a beautiful expression of gratitude to the Lord, who blesses us with all we have. Each offering—large or small—helps sustain our ministries and facilities, support those in need, and build up the Body of Christ here at Notre Dame. May God reward your giving hearts and continue to guide us all in faithful service to Him.

If you are not currently engaged in **Regular Offertory Giving**, please prayerfully consider making this important commitment as part of your spiritual journey with our Lord and His Church. Click [HERE](#) for details and to enroll today!

Troubled Waters in Our Facilities

By Leo Ramirez, Facilities Manager

Things are great while they are working, but not so great when they aren't! On Saturday afternoon, I received a call regarding the extremely low water pressure

in our building. With a Diocesan meeting going on in our Parish Hall and the upcoming Vigil Mass, I headed over to the building. Fortunately, I was able to restore water to the facilities by early evening; unfortunately, the problem was our 25-year-old water softener, which reached the end of its life.



Then, on Sunday, the next call came in, notifying me of flooding in the Shepherd's Call Room. The cause was a pump failure in the building, triggered by the water softener's breakdown.

*Thanks to the prompt help of **many angels around the church**, including our members of the Grounds and Facilities Committee, we were able to have everything cleaned up, dried, and restored by late Sunday evening.*



We ended up having to replace seven bathroom fixtures due to this issue, and we will need to replace the water softener. We are also assessing for any possibility of further damage resulting from this breakdown. Thank you to everyone for their patience. God bless you all. Leo Ramirez

These are often the unanticipated "behind-the-scenes" challenges we face,



especially with our aging facilities. Offertory Giving enables us to respond promptly and take the necessary actions to correct issues and prevent significant disruptions to the spiritual life of our parish community.

Celebrating Deacon Sunday

By Tanya D'Souza, Vocations Ministry

This past Sunday, October 12th, we joyfully celebrated Deacon Sunday at the 9:30 am Mass. We affirmed and thanked our wonderful permanent deacons, Joe Harris, Eric Kispert & Transitional Deacon Lucas Folan for their profound commitment to serving our Church.



As fully ordained clergy, deacons play a vital role in parish life through three key areas of service: the Ministry of the Word, the Ministry of the Liturgy, and the Ministry of Charity. They proclaim the Word of God, deliver homilies, perform baptisms, witness marriages, and offer care to those in need.

Deacon Joe has served us faithfully for 22 years, and Deacon Eric for almost 2 & 1/2 years. We are deeply grateful for their selfless service and dedication, and were honored to present them and their wives with a small token of our appreciation.

*Visit our **Vocations Ministry webpage** to learn more about our Deacons' inspiring journeys and their unique response to this vocation, and how they live and serve according to our Lord's plan and the gifts bestowed upon them by the Holy Spirit.*

Thank you to Deacon Joe, Deacon Eric, and to our newly ordained Deacon Lucas. God bless you and your beautiful families.

Saint in Every Corner Award

By Laura Balogh, Director of Family Faith Formation

This past Friday, October 10, young adult **Mark Conrads** received our annual ***Saint in Every Corner Award*** from Fr. Vidal and Cathy Ferramosca. Mark is a member of the Special Needs Youth and Young Adult Ministry, which is headed by Cathy Ferramosca. The award was presented at the end of the group's monthly Mass.



The Saint in Every Corner Award consists of a \$100 check and is distributed each year to a teen or young adult who has received the Sacrament of Confirmation and who provides devoted service to our parish family. The Pinnes family established this award in memory of Elizabeth Rosen, Liz Pinnes' late mother.



Mark has been a dedicated member of the Special Needs Youth and Young Adult group for years and has become a mentor to the other members. He is also an altar server for the group's monthly Masses. Thank you, Mark, for being such an inspiration to all of us!



If a member of your family or someone you know would like to participate in our Special Needs Youth Ministry gatherings, don't hesitate to contact Cathy Ferramosca at

Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church
Cedar Knolls, NJ

SPECIAL NEEDS

JUNIOR YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Fellowship
We gather for dinner and socialization!

Faith
We listen to and review scripture at each gathering.
We attend Mass celebrated for our small community.

Community
We share day-to-day experiences or anything special the participants would like to discuss!

When & Where
We gather twice per month on Fridays, from 5-7 pm in our Youth Ministry Room

**ALL ARE WELCOME
JOIN US!**

Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church
75 Ridgedale Ave., Cedar Knolls, NJ

Contact Cathy Ferramosca
soccern3@optimum.net
(973) 698-9617

Discipleship Quads: Cultivating Spiritual Intimacy in a Small Group Experience

By Debby Kispert

Over recent years, here at Notre Dame, we have been on mission renewing the culture of the parish as we seek to guide people into a deeper encounter with Jesus. Part of this renewal has included small-group faith sharing through programs such as Alpha and Discipleship Groups, where our witness, testimony, and stories offer great insight to help us and others, even in the midst of struggles, make sense of life and the presence of a higher being in their lives.

Disciples Quads are yet another small-group faith-sharing opportunity in our discipleship journey, **offering a more intimate and deeper encounter over a more extended period of time.** The 4-member group meets weekly for fellowship, prayer, and learning. Over 44 weeks, members journey together in faith, fostering authentic relationships, accountability, and a deeper relationship with Jesus.



AUTHENTIC FRIENDSHIPS | GENUINE CATHOLICISM | EMPOWERED DISCIPLES

*“Missionary disciples accompany missionary disciples,” as Pope Francis proclaimed in *Evangelii Gaudium*. Throughout the 44-week process, the accompaniment reflects*

The most recent women’s quad, consisting of **Monica Orecchio, Carol Thompson, Karen Soto**, and me (**Debby Kispert**), just completed its year-long journey!

on weekly themes intentionally focused on the Seven Characteristics of a Disciple: **Identity, Prayer, Sacraments, Obedience, Community, Service, and Sharing**. The purpose is to evaluate how the Lord is at work in our lives, to challenge each member to get out of their comfort zones, and to go where Jesus is calling them to go.



"The experience of being part of a year-long Discipleship Quad with three other women has been transformative. As we gathered consistently to study Scripture, share the intimate details of our lives, and unpack our individual journeys as women of Christ, I discovered a profound duality: I have never felt so vulnerable yet so incredibly powerful in my entire life. Over the months, the truth that all things are possible with God as our focus has become abundantly clear, transcending the unique backgrounds and varied levels of faith we each brought to the group. Four distinct individuals have been forged into inseparable Sisters in Christ, and I simply cannot imagine navigating my life's path without the depth, honesty, and fierce love of these ladies." Monica Orecchio

"I was invited to be part of this Women's Discipleship Quad last year, and I accepted the invitation in an effort to deepen my faith. It developed into so much more than that. The other three women and I not only shared our faith journeys, but also our life journeys. Every week, we talked about how the previous week had gone, laughed a lot, discussed the reading materials, and prayed. We learned that our Catholic faith was at the center of our lives. Now, instead of being part of a Quad, we are four friends in Christ." Karen Soto

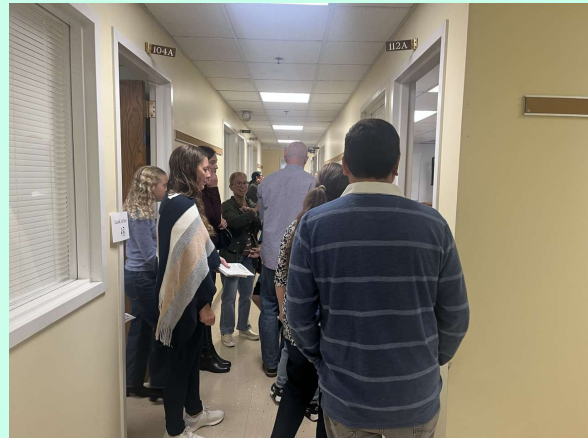
"When I received the invitation about joining the Quad, I took it as a sign from the Holy Spirit as an opportunity I did not want to miss!! In just a few weeks, being a member of the Quad became such an encouraging part of my week that I looked forward to going! As we became familiar with the format of the content and discussion, I grew more comfortable and trusting to reveal what I didn't know or understand. I truly appreciated the honesty and depth of discussion. The books were deep, practical, and thought-provoking. I began connecting the scripture readings to my day-to-day life and felt my relationship with God grow deeper. I prayed more and learned more about Catholicism. Being with smart, supportive, loving, and faithful women inspired me to grow more confident in my own identity as a Catholic woman of faith and worth. I treasure the time we had together and look forward to continuing the faith journey with others who are inspired too!" Carol Thompson

"When I reflected and prayed about this past year, it was amazing to realize how similar we all were in our early lives and how, as adult women, we have been seeking, too, to be open to God's pursuit of us. We have allowed God to show us the way and heard the voices of each woman in support and accountability. As it says in Acts 2:44, "All who believed were together and had all things in common." Our time together has been nothing short of extraordinary. We have been in each other's boats, championing one another, praying for one another, and for important prayer intentions. The fruits of these labors have shown themselves on countless occasions. We also became flexible when Monica & her husband Joe moved, AND Monica wanted to complete our Quad. Thank goodness for technology—we were able to include Monica each week via Zoom and a smart TV! We are the best of friends and look forward to staying connected, enjoying regular activities together. We now each invite a new group of three other women to experience a Discipleship Quad. Will you accept our invitation?" Debby Kispert

Hunting for Holiness: ***The Hail Mary Scavenger Hunt*** **By Diane Byrne, Family Faith Coordinator**

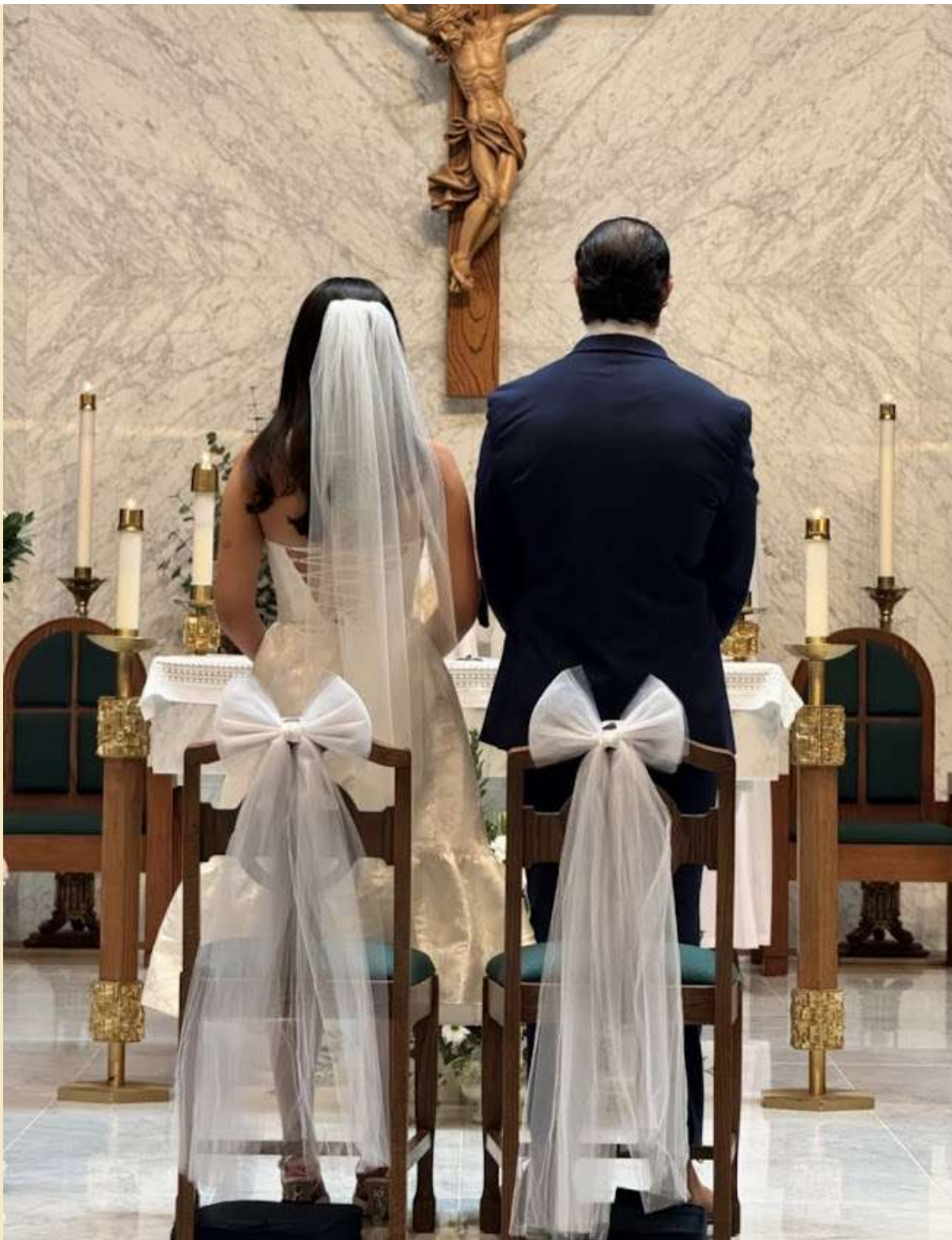


After the 9:30 Mass on Sunday, families gathered for a short family-centered activity that focused on the Hail Mary, the main prayer of the Rosary. First, everyone prayed a decade of the Rosary together, then the families completed a Hail Mary scavenger hunt. A line from the prayer was hidden in a classroom or meeting room. Families needed to find each of the seven lines and mark it as found on their Hail Mary Checklist.



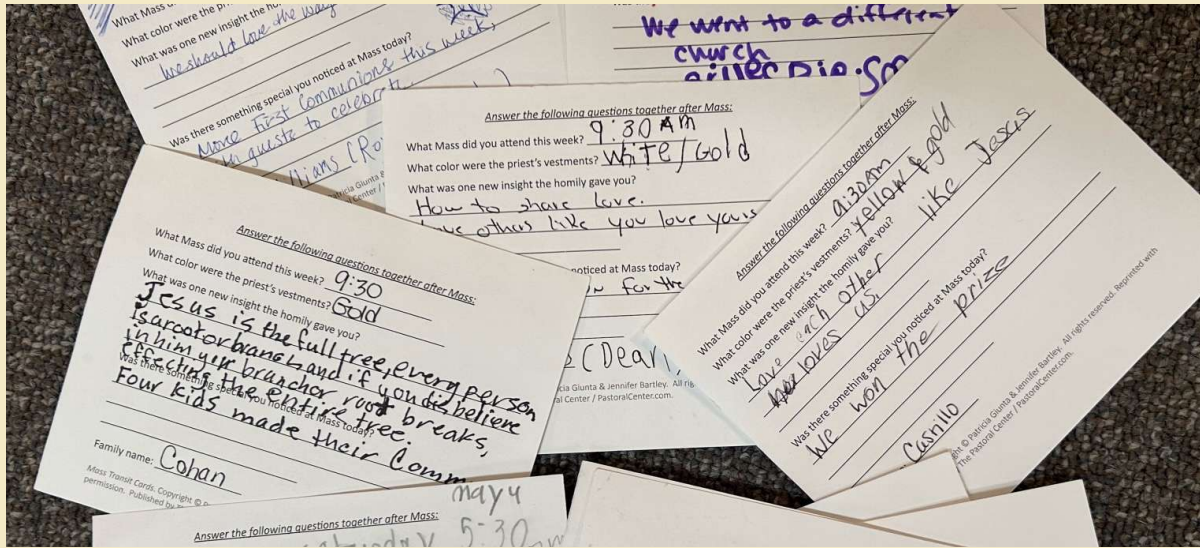
The activity offered families a fun and meaningful way to grow in faith together, helping children and parents alike reflect more deeply on the words of the Hail Mary. Through prayer, teamwork, and joyful discovery, everyone was reminded that the Rosary is not just a set of prayers, but a beautiful pathway that draws us closer to Jesus through the loving intercession of His Mother.

You're Invited to Join Our Wedding Ministry!



Do you have a friendly, welcoming spirit and a heart for service? Consider joining our **Wedding Ministry**! As a member of this ministry, you will serve as a parish representative for couples as they prepare to celebrate one of the most joyful and sacred moments of their lives. Ministry members:

Mass Transit Cards



What was the one insight the homily gave you?

"God loves a thankful heart."
 "Faith is powerful ... even a small amount can accomplish mighty things."
 "Donate your time, talent, and treasure."
 "Apostles asked Jesus for more Faith."
 "The importance of saying Thank You."
 "We are not sure."
 "Every good thing comes from God."
 "We are all thankful for each other and all of our blessings."
 "Believing in God can get you through a hard time."
 "Always try to say "thank you." Both you and the recipient and even God will feel good."
 "God is always here to listen to us."
 "Faith can be increased by praying every day."
 "When natural disasters or man- made issues arise we can question God and feel powerless but even a little faith can be strength."

Was there something special you noticed at Mass today?

"We clapped for the deacons."
 "Different singer."
 "My friend Stephanie sat with us."
 "Lots of singing."
 "Fall flowers in the podium/altar."
 "Double Deacons!"
 "Be patient/kind."
 "Our grandparents and cousin came with us."
 "My Pa is doing the homily."
 "Today was priest day."
 "No friends were at mass."
 "I sang in the choir and went to class after mass."
 "It's Deacon Sunday."
 "Bulletin board."
 "They used a tambourine and loud drums."
 "We brought close friends with us."
 "Our friend's mom did a reading."
 "My friend and I passed out books."
 "Sunflowers."

"Whether or not I feel my prayers are answered, I feel closer to God through faith and through being thankful."

"That God healed 10 people."

"Say thank you to people who help you."

"Jesus told people with leprosy to go see the priest and they were healed."

"God has a plan for you. You just have to wait."

"Our talents and things are gifts from God and we take care of them and share them."

"I read the second reading for the first time!"

"Deacon Joe gave us homework."

"We were asked to think about 3 things we are thankful for each night."

"I liked singing in Joyful Noise for the 1st time. I want to do it again."

"Sometimes the priest sits and sometimes he stands."

This Week's Mass & Lamp Intentions

Parishioner Announcements

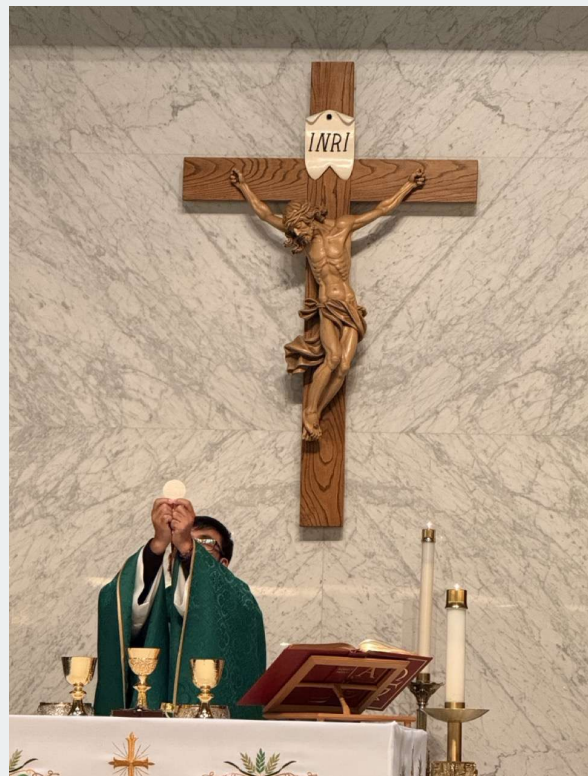
Memories that Share Our Story

Young Adults





7:30 am Mass





9:30 am Mass







Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Staff



Fr. Vidal Gonzales (Pastor)
frvidal@ndcarmel.com / x131



Deacon Joe Harris
deaconjoeharris44@gmail.com



Deacon Eric Kispert
erickispert@aol.com



Maria Cascio
Parish Secretary
parishsecretary@ndcarmel.com
x100



**Cristina Folan - Director of
Communications
& Evangelization**
commsupport@ndcarmel.com
x105



**Laura Balogh - Director of
Family Faith Formation**
lbalogh@ndcarmel.com
x121



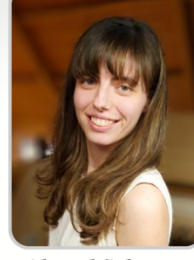
**Diane Byrne - Elementary
Family Faith Coordinator**
dbyrne@ndcarmel.com
x111



Marc Luciani - Sacristan
mluciani@ndcarmel.com



Karen Fajardo
Parish Bookkeeper
parishbookkeeper@ndcarmel.com
x 106



Abigail Schumer
Music Director
aschumer@ndcarmel.com
x 109



**Louis Castano - Director of
Contemporary Worship**
lcastano@ndcarmel.com



Leo Ramirez
Facilities Manager
rou0510@yahoo.com/x120



Frank Figur
Facilities Support

Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church
75 Ridgedale Avenue
Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927
973-538-1358
feedback@ndcarmel.com



Volunteer Main Office Support

volunteer@ndcarmel.com / x100



Patty Gant



Agnes Loughlin



Mary Malone



Sallyann Augello
Database Administrator
registration@ndcarmel.com

Mass Schedule:

Sunday Mass Schedule

Saturday	5:00 pm Also livestreamed 
Sunday	7:30 am
	9:30 am Family Mass
	11:30 am
	6:00 pm Mass with Contemporary Worship

Daily Mass Schedule

Mon–Fri	7:30 am LENT ONLY and through Wednesday of Holy Week
Mon–Sat	12:00 pm Praying of the Rosary following Mass

Upcoming Holy Days

ALL SAINTS

November 1 12:00 pm Obligation lifted this year as Holy Day falls on a Saturday.

Confessions:

Monday	7:00 pm to 8:30 pm Only during Lent
Saturday	12:45 pm to 1:30 pm Except Holy Saturday and Christmas Eve or Christmas Day when they fall on a Saturday.

Adoration:

Thursday	6:00 pm to 7:00 pm Holy Hour
Friday	8:00 am to 3:00 pm First Friday of the month is dedicated to Vocations

New Here? We'd love to connect with you and welcome you more personally! Please fill out a New Here Contact Card in our Gathering Space or contact Cristina Folan at commsupport@ndcarmel.com / 973-538-1358, ext. 105.