

**Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church**

# **PARISH UPDATE**

**[www.ndcarmel.com](http://www.ndcarmel.com)**



**NOTRE DAME OF MT. CARMEL CHURCH**

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

[www.ndcarmel.com](http://www.ndcarmel.com)

**Parish Update: December 10, 2025**





# MASS SCHEDULE

## Sunday Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5 pm Vigil (*livestreamed on YouTube*)

Sunday: 7:30 am  
9:30 am (Family Mass)  
11:30 am  
6:00 pm (Mass with Contemporary Worship)

## Daily Mass Schedule

Mon – Sat: 12:00 pm (*followed by praying  
of the Rosary*)

Mon-Fri: 7:30 am LENT ONLY and through  
Wednesday of Holy Week.

## Upcoming Holy Days

### **NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, JESUS**

#### **Vigil Masses, Wednesday, December 24:**

4:00 PM (Family Mass with Prelude at 3:34 PM);  
7:00 PM;

Midnight (with Music Prelude at 11:30 pm)

#### **Masses, Thursday, December 25:**

9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

### **MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

Tuesday, Dec. 31 Vigil Mass at 5:30 pm

Wednesday, Jan 1, Mass at 12 pm

*Parish Office will be closed:*

*Dec. 24, 25 & 26; Jan 1.*

## Confession

Saturday: 12:45 pm to 1:30 pm  
(*Except Holy Saturday and when Christmas Eve or  
Christmas Day falls on a Saturday*)

By Appointment with the Pastor (*call the parish office  
at 973-538-1358*)

## Adoration

Thursday: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm in the Chapel

Friday: 8:00 am – 3:00 pm in the Chapel

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[www.ndcarmel.com](http://www.ndcarmel.com)

Facebook: @ndcarmel

Instagram: @ndcedarknolls

YouTube: @NotreDameofMtCarmel

# *Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Staff*



**Fr. Vidal Gonzales (Pastor)**  
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**Deacon Joe Harris**  
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**Deacon Eric Kispert**  
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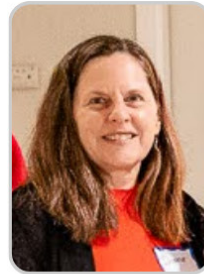
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**Karen Fajardo**  
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**Leo Ramirez**  
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**Frank Figur**  
Facilities Support

**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**



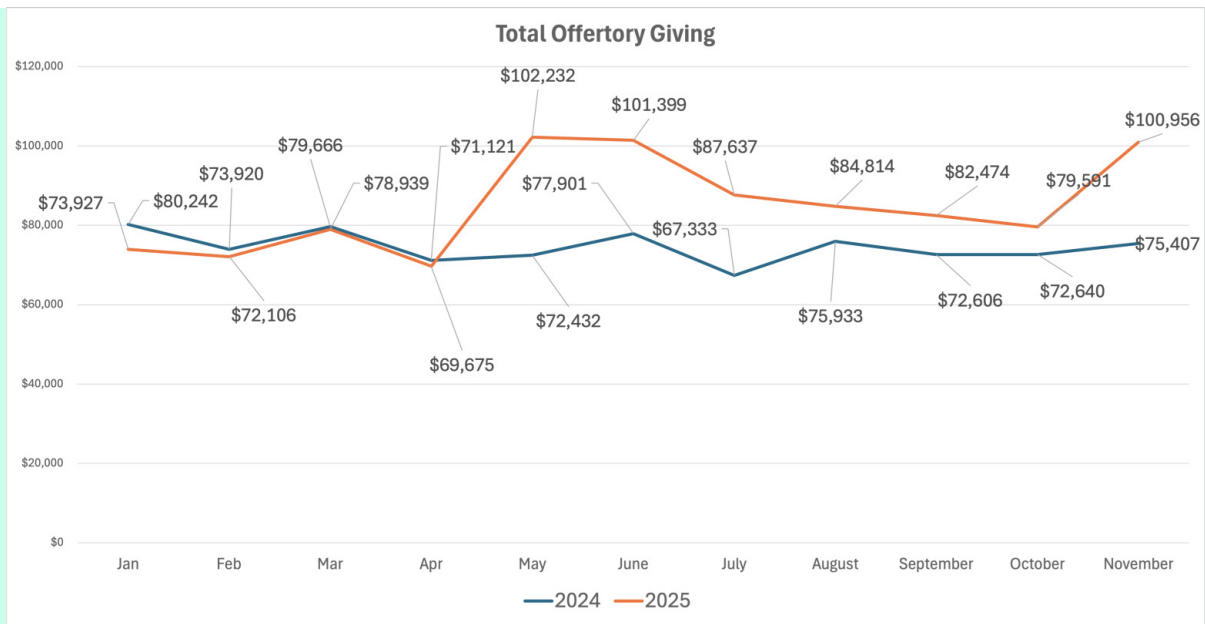
**Sallyann Augello**  
Database Administrator  
registration@ndcarmel.com

## Finance Update: Monthly Offertory Collection



<b>OSV</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
2024	\$40,027	\$41,562	\$40,589	\$40,817	\$44,099	\$43,821
2025	\$36,756	\$42,503	\$40,904	\$37,966	\$48,507	\$46,012
<b>Offline</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
2024	\$40,215	\$32,358	\$39,077	\$30,304	\$28,333	\$34,080
2025	\$37,171	\$29,603	\$38,035	\$31,709	\$53,725	\$55,387
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
2024	\$80,242	\$73,920	\$79,666	\$71,121	\$72,432	\$77,901
2025	\$73,927	\$72,106	\$78,939	\$69,675	\$102,232	\$101,399

<b>OSV</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>November</b>
2024	\$40,013	\$44,055	\$40,782	\$42,142	\$37,814
2025	\$42,953	\$50,932	\$42,617	\$44,922	\$51,869
<b>Offline</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>November</b>
2024	\$27,320	\$31,878	\$31,824	\$30,498	\$37,593
2025	\$44,684	\$33,882	\$39,857	\$34,669	\$49,087
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>November</b>
2024	\$67,333	\$75,933	\$72,606	\$72,640	\$75,407
2025	\$87,637	\$84,814	\$82,474	\$79,591	\$100,956



**Note:** This year's November included an additional weekend compared with November 2025. Nonetheless, when calculating weekly averages, there was a 7.4% increase (about \$1,390), an encouraging sign of higher giving compared with last year.

We are deeply grateful for the continued support that sustains our shared mission!

## Men's Cornerstone: "If Today You Hear His Voice..."

*"Maybe you're thinking there might be more to all this 'faith' stuff. Maybe you're looking for a solution, need answers, or want to make sense of the deeper questions you are carrying inside. Maybe you feel like you're all alone, isolated, or lost in your faith, while other people around you seem to get it. Or maybe you really love the Lord our God, and want to share and connect with other men, but have never really found a way. Here's what I know. God is real. God loves you. You're not alone... So if you hear His voice... don't cover your ears. Don't ignore God any longer. This is the time. This weekend is for you." Kevin Zerrenner*

This past weekend, our Men's Cornerstone team officially opened registration for their upcoming (26th!) retreat, January 23 & 24, 2026. Team representatives spoke at Masses, sharing how the Cornerstone Retreat has impacted their spiritual journey.



Pictured above, MC Team member, Andras Holzman

*"It has been said that what is essential is invisible to the eye. That the space between us is holy ground, it is where the Holy Spirit works. It was at my first Cornerstone that I found out what is essential for my faith journey, as the Holy Spirit reached out to me and I listened. The combination of the Life sharings of my other Brothers and discussion of Jesus' Passion was just what I needed to hear. It was brought home to me that not only is Jesus our Lord, but also our Brother. The divine and the human. It brought Jesus closer to me. As we journey through our lives experiencing our own trials and passions, Jesus, our Brother, has given us a role model to follow to face them. We are not alone." Craig Osberg*



Pictured above, MC Team member, Craig Osberg

*"Years ago, I treated a devout Catholic man with the worst metastatic prostate cancer I had ever seen. Most people in his condition couldn't even stand—yet he walked into my office every month smiling, holding a worn-out Bible like I used to hold my briefcase. It went everywhere with him.*

*One day, I finally asked him, "How are you even walking?" He said, "Walk? Doctor... I haven't walked in years. Jesus is on my left. Mary is on my right. They're carrying me."*

*This man didn't just read about Jesus—HE KNEW JESUS.*

*At Cornerstone, you won't just hear one testimony—you'll hear five, from regular guys sharing their stories with an honesty and sincerity you rarely experience!" Frank Salvatore*

*"Our challenge to men out there is to reflect on your faith journey and where you stand in your relationship with God. If it could use some work, or you are looking for new ways to strengthen it, the Men's Cornerstone retreat is a great next step on your journey."*

Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel

## MEN'S CORNERSTONE XVI

JANUARY 23 & 24, 2026

*"If today you hear His Voice..."*

MEN'S CORNERSTONE XXVI RETREAT



SEE MORE ON THE MOUNTAIN: <https://www.ndcarmel.com/mens-cornerstone-retreat>

JANUARY 23 & 24, 2026

**"Give ear and come to me: listen that you may live." Isaiah 55:3**

Join us for 24 hours of sharing, prayer, and reflection. Listen to powerful testimonies of men who bring our faith to life. Reflect upon experiences that demonstrate how God is present in our lives, how He is calling us to hear His voice, and how He is the Cornerstone.

Join us in this great opportunity to meet other men who seek a conversion of the heart and strengthening through the Holy Spirit.

Scan the QR code to register or visit our website at [www.ndcarmel.com](http://www.ndcarmel.com)



## **Food Rescue Christmas Gathering**

**By Karen Fajardo, Parish Bookkeeper & Food Rescue Member**

*"On Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, I had the pleasure of attending the Food Rescue Christmas Party for the first time since I started working here at Notre Dame two years ago. My intention was to stay for a few minutes and then go home, but as I started chatting with the people at my table and felt so welcome, I decided to stay; I was one of the last people to leave!"*



*That night, I went home with a heart full of joy, gratitude, and admiration for the hard, meaningful work of the Food Rescue ministry's leaders and volunteers. I had the opportunity to meet many of them I didn't know before, and I was impressed by the number of generous souls who contribute to this beautiful work of rescuing food to feed those most in need.*

*I heard some heartwarming stories, including the wonderful work Carlos does in Paterson, where he helps many people in need. It was also very moving to hear the story of the Plaid House, where they help young teenage girls during a vulnerable time in their lives. It was wonderful to hear about the difference a meal prepared with love by a generous person can make in their lives.*



*So, how did I end up involved in this ministry? A few months into my work at this wonderful church, a Food Rescue Ministry leader asked if I wanted to take a couple of bags of bagels to my home parish, Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Orange, NJ. I told her that, unfortunately, we didn't have a food pantry, but that Our Lady of the Valley parish in Orange, NJ did, and that I would ask the pastor if they accepted bagel donations. I spoke with the pastor as soon as I could, and he said they would gladly accept the bagels. The following Friday, I told the ministry leader I would bring the bagels to Our Lady of the Valley!*

*During my most recent delivery this past weekend, one of the volunteers told me that this weekly donation has been a great blessing and that, unfortunately, the food pantry is at risk of closing due to a lack of donations. This has motivated me to continue doing my part to keep it open. There are many people in need of food in the Orange area, and I feel it is my duty to answer the call Jesus gave us to feed the hungry.*



*I am immensely grateful to the Food Rescue Ministry for their great work and their generous hearts. The Christmas party was a very beautiful and inspiring experience where I enjoyed a delicious meal, the company of generous people, Christmas carols, and even a surprise gift!"*

*Karen Fajardo*

## **Knights of Columbus Annual Christmas Party**

**By Dennis Fasano, Former Grand Knight**



*This past Saturday, the Knights hosted their Annual Christmas Party for families of Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel and Our Lady of Mercy parishes. Over 270 guests enjoyed the food, fellowship, Santa, and the magician! More than 70 toys were raffled, bringing joy to the winners.*





*The Knights have been hosting this annual grand event for many years! The party creates a welcoming, joyful space for families in both parishes to meet, form friendships, and deepen their connection to faith and parish life. It is a joy for our Knights to organize and host this great event!*



*Thanks to all who attended. May you all have a blessed Christmas season!*

## **Family Mass: Angel on Assignment**

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

As we continued our Angel on Assignment Advent theme this past Sunday, our lead angel asked our families to write a prayer request on four separate strips of paper and link them to create a paper chain.





After Mass, our lead angel, along with her helper angels, handed out strips of pink, purple, and cream paper to the families. Families will be returning their paper prayer request chains during the weekend of December 20 and 21.



We can report that families completed their Angel Assignment from last Sunday successfully - the beautiful handmade Christmas cards are ready to go! Our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will deliver them to our homebound parishioners within the next week or two.



## Hallow-ND Partnership



*"I've never been one to download a religious app to my phone, but with the recent push to do the "Hallow Challenge," I did - with a little help from a friend! Not only do I enjoy the daily prayer inspirations, which last just 10 - 15 mins per day, but I have also recently found that there is a great extent of worship music available through the app.*

*You see, as part of Notre Dame's Healing Prayer Ministry, which meets on the second Sunday of each month, we gather to pray with and for those experiencing physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Part of my tasks includes providing instrumental worship music to play quietly in the background during our prayer time—simple enough, right? For a long time, I would bring the Boom Box from the upstairs Resource Room to play a suitable CD for our monthly prayer time. I even found beautiful instrumental worship music on YouTube, but then found our solemn prayer time was unexpectedly interrupted with annoying ads -- how embarrassing!*

*Then Dee Wayland, another member of our ministry, told me that the Hallow app has plenty of music to pick from. This, coupled with the parish invitation to participate in the Hallow Challenge during Advent, was just what I needed to try the Hallow app. I did and found some beautiful music I can play directly from my phone with the help of a portable speaker (\$20 on Amazon), which gave great sound! So now, the Healing Prayer team has moved into the 21st century from the 1980s Boom Box generation! I even played music from Hallow last night at my weekly Mah Jong game, and we had fun guessing the vocalists for each song!*

*Anyway, Hallow has much to offer beyond daily inspiration over your morning coffee, which I've found to be a lovely way to start each day! Please check it out; you won't be disappointed, I promise!!" - Patty Gant*

**To join:**

1. Go to **Hallow.com/Parish** on your web browser to redeem an exclusive offer and join your parish page.
2. Download or open the Hallow app
3. Create an account or log in
4. Search for our parish (zip 07927) in the Church tab
5. Join the Advent Pray25 Challenge
6. Start praying on December 1st!



*Need help? Email  
commsupport@ndcarmel.com*

## **First Friday: Adoration for Vocations**

***“The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.” (Luke 10:2)***

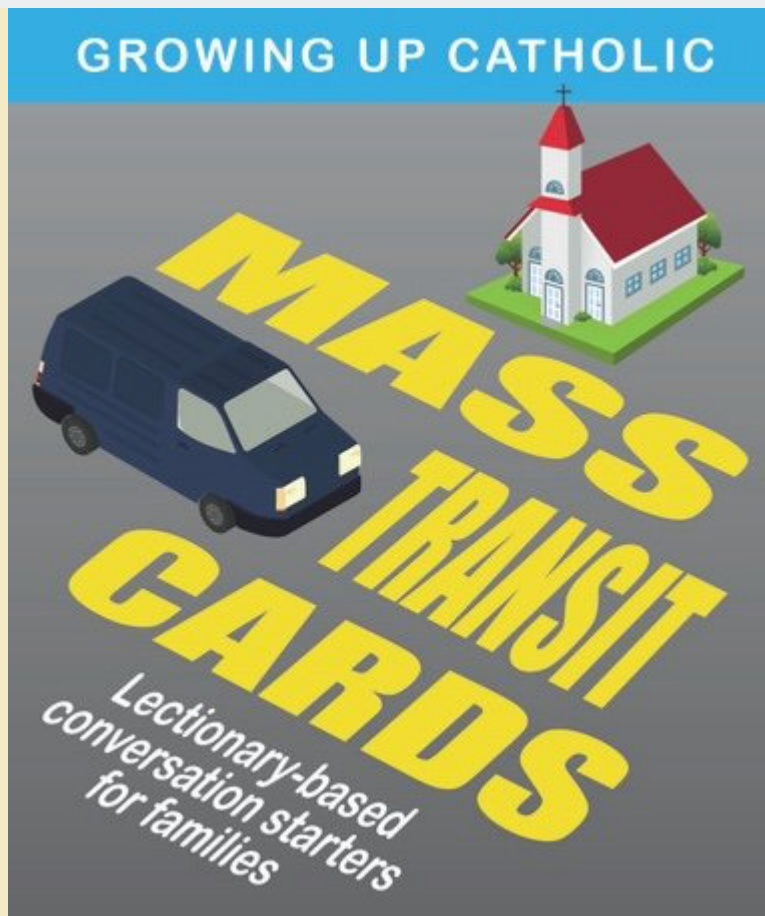
On the first Friday of each month, faithful come together for a sacred, prayerful time before the Blessed Sacrament, lifting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, religious life, and marriage.



In the stillness of Eucharistic Adoration, we ask the Lord to stir hearts, grant courage to those He is calling, and guide our Church with faithful and joyful servants.



Whether you stay for a few minutes or the entire time, your presence and prayers make a difference! Please consider resting in His presence, praying for our Church, and entrusting the future of vocations to the Lord.



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

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

*"When we do wrong things, we can apologize to God."*

*"Be sorry, be kind and pray."*

*"John the Baptist was Jesus' cousin."*

*"There are three things we have to do . Be sorry, behave and pray."*

*"God loves people who try to do good and stay faithful, even when things get hard."*

*"Jesus is our king."*

*"There are four gospels - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John."*

*"We need to feed the hungry and help those that need it."*

*"We have to be strong in our faith. It will help us get through the difficult moments in life."*

*"You need to pray for those who have passed to help them get to heaven."*

*"Getting baptized is the 2nd most important day in your life (besides being born)."*

*"Be a laborer to kindness, forgiveness and compassion."*

*"Jesus is coming. We need to open our hearts and be ready."*

*"God makes you patient and cheerful. "*

*"Repent and prepare for the coming of our Lord. Jesus is coming."*

*"In the gospel of Matthew, the main character is John the Baptist. His message is to repent and prepare the way for the Lord."*

*"I will be kind."*

*"Father Vidal has a new vestment color."*

*"The angel tree was overflowing with presents."*

*"We lit the second purple candle of Advent."*

*"We handed the books out this morning."*

*"My cousins are in the choir."*

*"There was a purple table with candles lit."*

*"The harvest flowers in front of the altar."*

*"It was a different priest."*

*"Our cousin was baptized."*

*"It was very crowded. Everyone was happy."*

*"Garland and wreaths outside and around the Church!"*

*"There was a short play with children playing as angels."*

*"There is a special Advent wreath at church. It has purple and pink candles."*

*"Father Paddy said Mass."*

*"The 3 angels came!"*

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

**Parishioner  
Announcements**

## *Memories that Share Our Story*

*6 pm Mass*



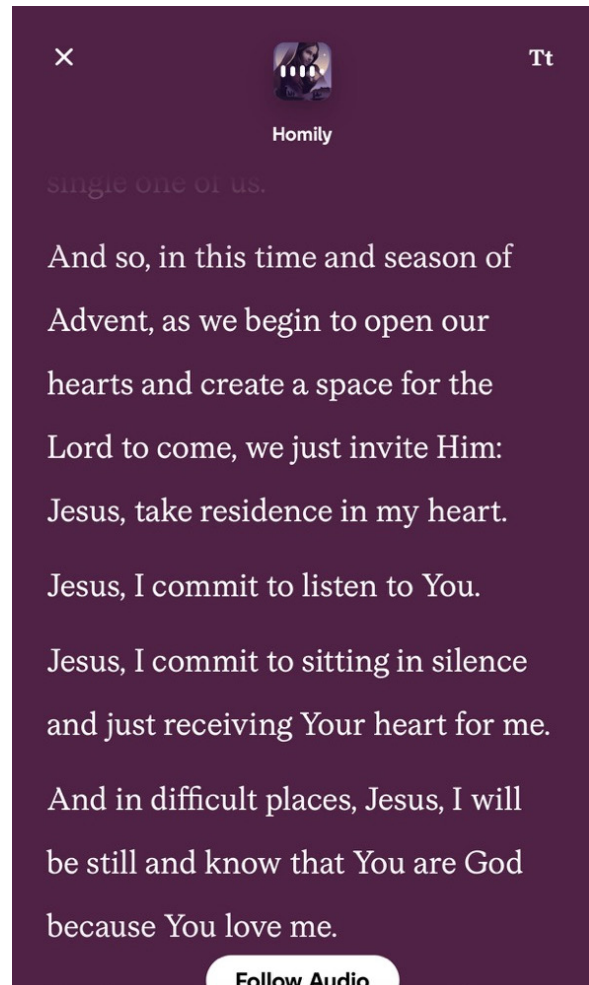
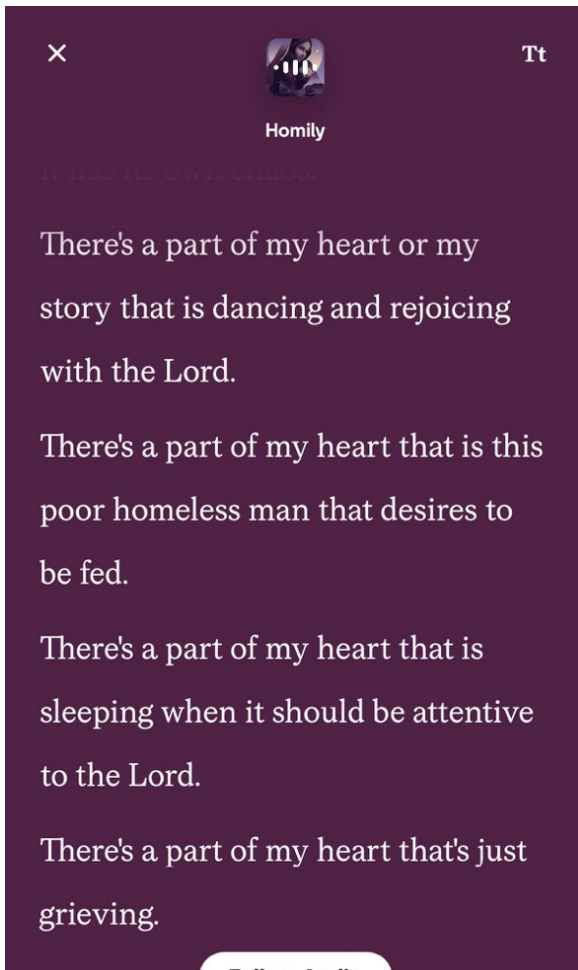
*7:30 am Mass (click below)*



*9:30 am Mass (click below)*



## *"In my heart..."*



*From Day 7 of "Be Still" Prayer Challenge on Hallow (Homily by Fr. Pierre Touissant)*