



NOTRE DAME OF MT. CARMEL CHURCH

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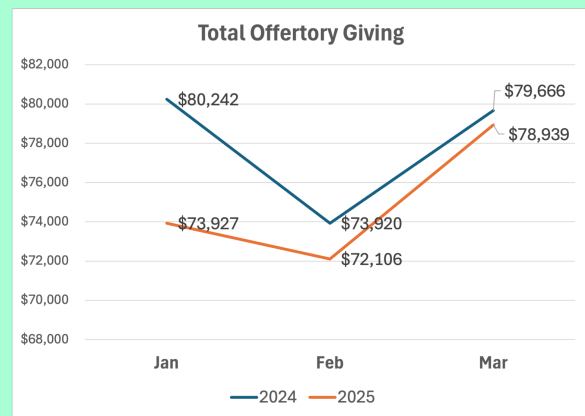
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Parish Update: April 8, 2025

Finance Update: Monthly Offertory Collections



OSV	Jan	Feb	Mar
2024	\$40,027	\$41,562	\$40,589
2025	\$36,756	\$42,503	\$40,904
Offline	Jan	Feb	Mar
2024	\$40,215	\$32,358	\$39,077
2025	\$37,171	\$29,603	\$38,035
TOTAL	Jan	Feb	Mar
2024	\$80,242	\$73,920	\$79,666
2025	\$73,927	\$72,106	\$78,939



Family Faith Lent Madness: The winner is...

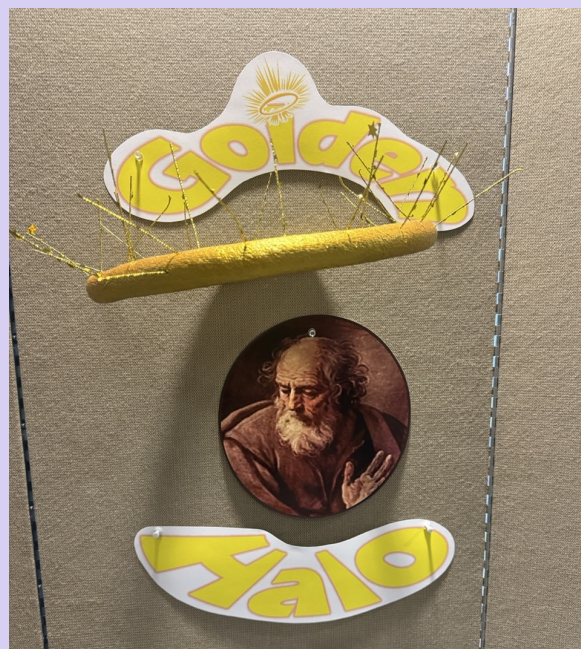
By Diane Byrne, Elementary Family Faith Coordinator



On Sunday, Michelle Blanchfield announced the winner of the Golden Halo.



At the beginning of the week, St. Nicholas had the lead, but by the end, St. Joseph pulled through to win the coveted prize!



St. Joseph's Lent Madness conference was Operation Appalachia!



Michelle shared that Operation Appalachia Ministry is a group of skilled and unskilled adults and youths who spend one week each summer repairing homes in Preston County, West Virginia. Projects include patching leaky roofs, replacing broken windows, painting, plumbing, flooring, and other home repairs.



In return for their time and labor, these individuals receive a great sense of satisfaction in helping to improve the living conditions of the county's poor and elderly, as well as learning some valuable lessons from those they have helped.

Throughout the year, members of this ministry come together to plan events that help raise funds for the trip, such as the **May Trivia Night** they are planning ([*click HERE to make your reservations now!*](#)). They also rely upon contributions from parish members, corporations, and other private donors.

Operation Appalachia will appreciate the money collected from the sacrifices and good deeds the faith formation children performed during Lent!

Celebrating Our Centennial: Commemorative Project

By Deacons Eric Kispert & Joe Harris



Over the last several months, the Centennial Committee has been hard at work discussing plans, pulling together ideas, and considering costs for our celebration. It was agreed that a special project would be done to celebrate our 100th birthday, one that will bring glory to the Lord while honoring our Blessed Mother.

The project focuses on enhancing the beauty of St. Benedict Chapel. This effort is especially meaningful now, with the recent reinstating of the Chapel for Holy Hours, Friday Adoration, the 7:30 AM Mass during Lent, and other spiritually enriching events. At the same time, the project has allowed us to reimagine the celebration of Baptisms in the Chapel. This change will provide families with a more intimate and prayerful setting for this sacred Sacrament while also addressing liturgical and practical concerns associated with holding Baptisms in the Gathering Space.



After extensive research, we have partnered with a talented designer from New Holland Church Furniture in Lancaster County, PA. They are making a new wooden altar, baptismal font, lectern, presider chair, and kneeler for the chapel. In addition, Fr. Peter Gray, a renowned artist, was commissioned to make a portrait of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel for the space. (You may have seen several of his pieces permanently displayed at St. Paul's Inside the Walls.)

The total cost of this project is approximately \$28,000, which covers all of the above and a few other necessary additions. To date, we have already received \$16,000 in donations. If you feel called to contribute to enhancing this sacred space, please reach out to Fr. Vidal directly at his cell (347-435-5767).

For the past 100 years, the Spirit has blessed Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel, and with grateful hearts, we pray that we may continue to serve our community and the Lord for the next 100 years and beyond!

God bless, Deacons Eric & Joe

OCIA Journey Underway!

By Laura Balogh, Director of Family Faith

This season of Lent has been exciting for the seven members of our OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) group, who are continuing their formation for their Sacraments this Easter!



The following members of the group have been working together since last fall with the **OCIA ministry leaders, Claire & Jim Matlon: Pranav Kapoor**, who will receive Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation; former Protestants **Donna Goodwin** and **Alex Taylor**, who will receive Eucharist & Confirmation; baptized Catholic **Stacy Nigro** who will receive first Eucharist & Confirmation; and **Samantha Kohl, Anna Robertelli, and Nicole Severino**, who need their remaining Sacrament of Confirmation.

Pranav Kapoor's process is more complex since he is considered an "Elect," formally chosen by the Church to receive all the Sacraments of Initiation, including Baptism. The past few Sundays, the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent, he participated in three successive rites during regular weekend Masses called **the Scrutinies**.

The Scrutinies are ancient rites from the early Church, celebrated for those preparing for Baptism. They are a loving way for God to examine the Elect—not to find faults, but to affirm what is good, true, and beautiful in them. During Lent, this time of purification and enlightenment. Prayers of exorcism, led by Fr. Vidal, help free the Elect from sin and sinful desires, while the laying on of hands invites God's Word and grace to enlighten them. Each Scrutiny marks a step toward their upcoming initiation.



The first two Scrutinies were celebrated the Sunday 11:30 a.m. Masses, but the third, this past Sunday, was held during the 5 p.m. Vigil Mass to allow more members of our faith community to accompany Pranav on his faith journey.




On March 30, following the second Scrutiny, at the 11:30 am Mass, the entire OCIA group met for one of their adult formation sessions. **Deacon Joe and Karen Harris** were our special guests, and they provided a beautiful and inspirational presentation about Catholic Social Teaching and how they have put these teachings into action in the world throughout their faith lives together as a married couple. Deacon Joe and Karen provide this witness for our adult formation group each year, with the goal that each person be inspired to serve following their sacraments, using their own God-given charisms.



Please continue to pray for all the OCIA group members who will receive the sacraments at the beautiful Easter Vigil Mass.

Do you know anyone interested in becoming Catholic? Please contact Laura Balogh at:
lbalogh@ndcarmel.com or 973-538-1358, ext. 121.



ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Drawn | Desired | Deepened

<p>Are you not Catholic but interested in learning more? Not quite ready to convert?</p> <p><i>OCIA is for you.</i></p>	<p>Do you desire to be fully received into the Catholic church and receive her sacraments?</p> <p><i>OCIA is for you.</i></p>	<p>Are you already Catholic and looking to deepen your relationship with Christ? Do you want to come home to the Church after being away?</p> <p><i>OCIA is for you.</i></p>
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Where ever you find yourself in your faith journey,
OCIA is for you.

Easter Ham Drive: Thank you!



A heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to our annual Easter Ham Drive! **We received 51 hams, along with \$300 in cash and online donations.** A special shoutout to members of our Men's Ministry for braving the dreary weather over the weekend to support the collection in the back parking lot.

Mass Live-Streaming Update

We understand and appreciate the concerns shared regarding the recently announced change in livestreaming practices. We assure everyone that this is not a matter of disregard for our homebound parishioners but the reality of our financial

and ministry limitations. We have been exploring the possibility of live-streaming the Saturday Vigil Mass. We hope this will be feasible so that our homebound parishioners can still experience the weekend Mass as it is celebrated in our own sacred space.



Everything our parish offers—our ministries, outreach programs, liturgies, or events—is made possible by the generous hearts of our community. Through the time, talent, and treasure so freely given by parishioners, we can serve not only one another but those in need beyond our doors. This spirit of selfless giving is at the very heart of who we are, and we are deeply grateful for all who quietly and consistently support the life and mission of our parish.

We offer a special shoutout to our Livestreaming Ministry, whose members, under the leadership of Christa Cottone, have faithfully served our parish in this manner since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

***"Nothing you could ever do to make me love
you less..."***

This past weekend, as we heard about the story of Jesus's response to the woman caught in adultery, Dcn. Eric, in his homily, referenced the story of a young boy's story, "the lump:"



Mass Transit Cards

"There is nothing we can do to make God love us any less."

"It is easier to see others' faults than our own."

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

**Parishioner
Announcements**

Memories that share our story...

Moms & Tots



Easter Egg Hunt Prep! (Click below!)



7:30 am Mass



Family Mass





Food Rescue / Monthly Blessing Bags





🎉 🏵️ Congratulations to **Bob and Terry Smith**, beloved longtime parishioners and faithful servants of Christ, who celebrate TODAY their **64th Wedding Anniversary!** What a powerful witness they offer to the beautiful sacrament of Matrimony—a testament to enduring love, unwavering faith, and a lifetime of grace shared together. May God continue to bless them abundantly!



