



**NOTRE DAME
OF MT. CARMEL CHURCH**

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Parish Update: September 23, 2025



*Sometimes bridges and dialogue are built right among neighbors,
even within our own Diocese!*

Alpha: On Mission Beyond the Walls

Our Alpha team's desire to be a ministry on mission beyond the walls of our parish found a response in the hearts of a few parishioners from St. Catherine of Siena in Mountain Lakes. Having previously experienced Alpha here at Notre Dame, they were so deeply impacted by the journey that they felt called to bring it to their own parish. Here is their missionary story:

Alpha:

Where questions can be asked, doubts can be raised, hurts can be healed, and hope can be given.



"On Wednesday, July 9, sixteen members of our Alpha ministry ventured outside the walls of Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel to bring the Alpha program to St. Catherine of Siena parish in Mt. Lakes. With hearts filled with welcome and hospitality, St. Catherine's opened their doors and partnered with us during 10 weeks of faith and fellowship. With the help of Patty Duerr, Rockie French, and their team, we journeyed together with 27 guests from various churches. We shared deeply, discussed questions without judgment, laughed, cried, and welcomed the Holy Spirit into our midst. It was a blessing and a privilege to be part of this wonderful new venture. Many hearts were opened to stronger faith, to joyful hope and to ask "what is next for me" and "maybe I can bring Alpha to my church!" God is so good and has gifted us beyond measure." Jen Qvotrup, Alpha Team Leader



"We feel so blessed and energized by how many people attended Alpha from several of the local parishes, not only St. Catherine's. Clearly there is an interest to get closer to Jesus and/or learn more about faith. We at St. Catherine's are grateful and humbled by the Notre Dame volunteers. They are a true inspiration in their mission to spread the love of Jesus and the meaning of the Holy

"It is impossible to describe in words, the wonder of being enveloped in a loving group brought together by the hands of God."

"It enriched and expanded my knowledge and appreciation for the Holy Spirit and the love of Jesus"

Spirit through their actions and through facilitating Alpha." St. Catherine of Siena Team

"If we build it, they will come...to Alpha! The Holy Spirit was upon us in this collaboration of two parishes. Every session, we felt the joyful presence of our Lord. He was there, guiding us to share our faith in Him, hoping to change hearts along this journey." NDMC Alpha Team Member

"Two things, it changed my understanding of the Holy Spirit and changed some aspects of how I pray. My prayers now include giving glory to God. Before this, my focus was almost exclusively on my burdens and troubles."

"It offered sacred space to pause, reflect and connect with my faith in ways I did not anticipate. Many moments with my group and friends helped me reshape my perspective filling me with a renewed sense of purpose. This experience helped guide my path with clarity and hope."

Let us pray for the continued spreading of the Gospel throughout our parishes and beyond. Programs like Alpha offer that opportunity -- a welcoming, safe and non-judgemental space to journey with those distant from the faith and the Lord, or those with questions about faith, life and purpose. Our next series of Alpha will be offered in early 2026.

Generous Hearts of Notre Dame

We were deeply moved by a note recently received longtime parishioner Marty Reilly's daughter, Kathy, sharing her father's Offertory Gift and with it, his steadfast faith and generosity. Though at 85 years old Marty can no longer be physically present at Mass, he continues to live as a generous disciple of our Lord through prayer and offering, and remaining a devoted and committed member of our Notre Dame family.

Celebrating PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY September 28, 2025



Please join us in praying for our priests
and in praising God
for their courage and generosity.

The Vocation Ministry invites you to
take a moment to write a note of
appreciation to our Pastor, Fr. Vidal!
(*Be sure to visit the Priesthood Sunday
display in our Gathering Space*).

Let Fr. Vidal know something he has
done that has impacted you personally
to assure him of your loving care and
gratitude for his presence in the life of
our church community.

God bless our priests!



Centennial Prayer Challenge: 100 Holy Hours

As we continue to celebrate 100 years of our wonderful community of faith, we pause with deep gratitude for the countless prayers lifted before our Lord by those who came before us. Their devotion has laid the foundation upon which we stand today. In honor of this special milestone, we invite all to take part in a **100 Holy Hours Prayer Challenge**, offering 100 hours of Adoration for our loved ones.

This special challenge is also meant to fuel an essential pillar of our parish: **Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament**. **Adoration** is often called the *heartbeat of a parish*, because everything we do flows from and returns to Jesus truly present in the Eucharist. When we spend time before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, we

encounter His love, draw strength for daily life, and bring before Him the needs of our families, parish, and world.



Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel

In honor of our Centennial, let us unite in prayer by offering

100 Holy Hours for our loved ones!

Please take a Holy Hour card(s) from this board for a desired date and time slot, provide your contact information and place the card(s) in the box. Mark you calendar and come before the Lord to offer Him that Holy Hour for your loved one(s).

	OCTOBER (30 HOURS)				
	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
8-9 am	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥
9-10 am	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥
10-11 am	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥
11 am-12 pm	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥
1-2 pm	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥
2-3 pm	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥

	NOVEMBER (24 HOURS)			
	7th	14th	21st	28th
8-9 am	♥	♥	♥	♥
9-10 am	♥	♥	♥	♥
10-11 am	♥	♥	♥	♥
11 am-12 pm	♥	♥	♥	♥
1-2 pm	♥	♥	♥	♥
2-3 pm	♥	♥	♥	♥

	DECEMBER (24 HOURS)			
	5th	12th	19th	26th
8-9 am	♥	♥	♥	♥
9-10 am	♥	♥	♥	♥
10-11 am	♥	♥	♥	♥
11 am-12 pm	♥	♥	♥	♥
1-2 pm	♥	♥	♥	♥
2-3 pm	♥	♥	♥	♥

	JANUARY (30 HOURS)				
	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
8-9 am	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥
9-10 am	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥
10-11 am	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥
11 am-12 pm	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥
1-2 pm	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥
2-3 pm	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥



A sign-up board will be available this weekend in our **Gathering Space**. Our Centennial Holy Hour Challenge is set for **Fridays, from 8 am to 3 pm**, with the goal of covering **every hour of Adoration** until we reach **100 Holy Hours**! Here is how to be a part of it:

1. Select one hour to which you can commit to spend in Adoration here at ND.
2. Take the paper pinned to that hour, write your name and contact information, and place it in the box next to the board.
3. **Please be sure to mark your personal calendar with your Holy Hour commitment.**

While the posted hours may not always be the most convenient for many given personal and professional commitments, choosing to seek to free up one hour during those designated times, is in itself a powerful **sacrifice of love**. Come, spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and be part of this parish milestone of prayer!

Fall Discipleship Groups Behind the Themes...



What promoted our leaders to select their particular themes?

Bible Stories & Great Works of Art:

My interest in Christian Art began while touring Italy with my wife Chris in 2012. Seeing the beautiful and inspiring sacred art of Michelangelo, Caravaggio, Bernini, and others up close was a spiritual experience. It was so enlightening for me to see up close how their beautiful representations of scenes described in the Bible help us to understand and appreciate the meaning of God's Word. I wanted to somehow share this experience with others. With the encouragement of former Deacon Ron Forino and Parish staff, I developed what is called "Bible Stories and Great Works



I believe that anyone who is either familiar with or just curious about art based on stories in the Bible could benefit. Like me, you don't need a background or special interest in art, just be open to learning more about and experiencing world famous Christian Art and the artists. It will most

of Art” as a means to share Christian Art from around the world right here at Notre Dame. The program utilizes digital images of works of art and artists, expertly narrated short videos (taken at museums and churches), and group discussion.

surely strengthen your faith and help you to grow closer to God.” Carl Schlotfeldt

The Rosary - Meditating on the Fruits of the Mysteries: “The primary drive that led me to select the Holy Rosary and its mysteries as a guide to meditation is the need to settle and reflect in silence on the many thoughts we entertain—rigorously or not—throughout the day or night. In praying the Rosary, we ask for the loving intercession of our Blessed Mother, who, through her own life and the life of her Son Jesus as revealed in the mysteries, offers us guidance and peace for the challenges we face. These meditations are especially helpful for individuals seeking a structured spiritual practice that allows them to reflect quietly on their own thoughts and then join together in a group setting, without the pressure of speaking.” Caterina Viscomi



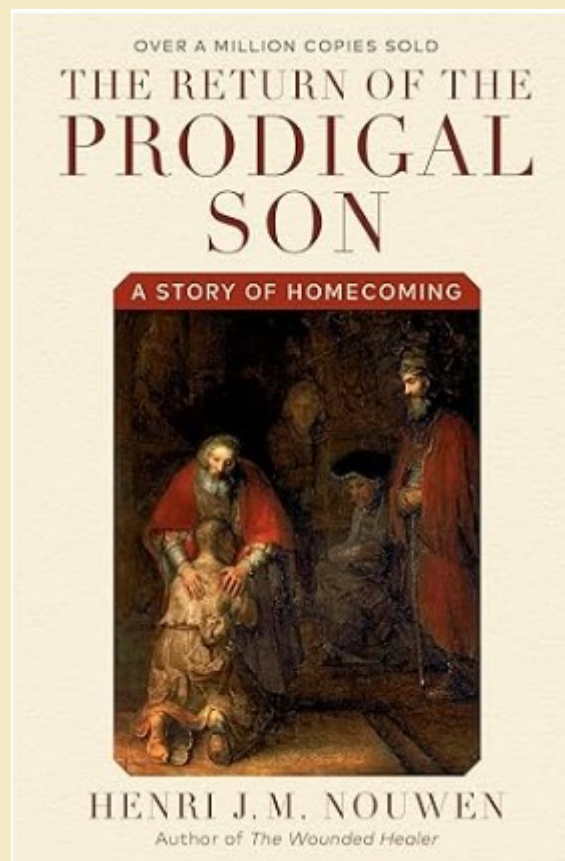
Morning Prayer Calls: “I am very passionate about “morning prayer calls.” A phone call! It’s been in existence for 6 years! I love God, I love people, and I have a lot on my plate. If you feel the same way, I encourage you to try out this group and see if it’s a good fit for you. It is an efficient half hour, packed with a deep dive into the Word of God and praying for others twice a week - every week. Come and join us! From anywhere. You’ll be glad you did.” Patty Allocca



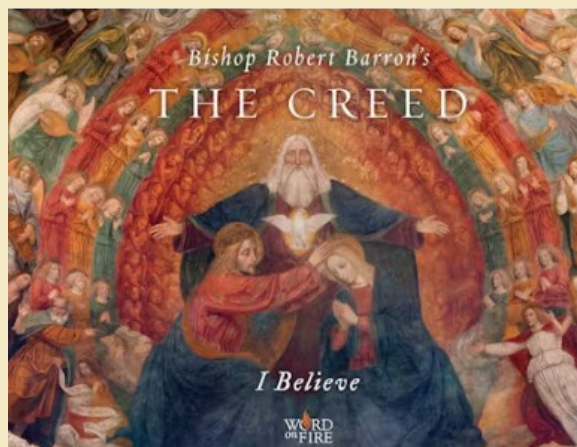
The Activated Disciple: *"I believe the word "disciple" is often misused because its true meaning is not fully understood. The catch phrase for The Activated Disciple truly grabbed my attention; Are you a fan or a follower? I am ready for this adventure, and I pray that others will share their longing to be like Jesus and join me on this challenging journey. Anyone who desires to be more like Jesus and is willing to deny oneself, take up one's cross, and follow Him is invited to participate in this 40-day challenge! The journey may not be an easy one. Still, by trusting the power of the Holy Spirit, we can be transformed into fully activated disciples, spreading the Gospel message in a world that desperately needs to hear it." Maria Cascio*



The Return of the Prodigal Son: *"There are times in our life when we become hurt or disillusioned by someone's actions, much like the father and the prodigal son. How do we get beyond that and do we look at all sides of the scenario. What is God trying to tell us and how do we start listening. This book allows us to open our heart and will take us on the journey of the prodigal son, his father, and his brother." Carol Critchley*



The Creed: *"I chose the Creed study because it illuminates the foundational truths of what we as Christians believe. We often don't really understand our faith, or why we believe what we believe. This study is designed to help us better understand not just the what, but the why of our faith. And, it will help us better articulate that faith to a fallen, broken world. This study is geared towards those who don't have a solid understanding of the faith, as well as for the more mature Christians who perhaps are feeling a bit stale, or who are searching for a more effective way to explain the faith to non-believers."* Norma Jahl



[Click HERE for details and to register. Groups begin in October!](#)

Kicking Off a New Year of Family Faith!

By Laura Balogh, Director of Family Faith Formation

Catechetical Sunday 2025

Each year, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) designates the third Sunday in September as Catechetical Sunday, which fell this past Sunday, September 21, 2025. The theme this year ***“Always be ready to give an explanation...for a reason for your hope”*** (1 Pet 3:15), which encourages us to be prepared to share the basis of our faith, the Lord, and the hope He provides. In the same manner Saint Peter encouraged the believers of his time, the Scripture reminds us, the sharing should be done with gentleness and respect.

This past Sunday, Fr. Vidal commissioned fourteen of our catechists at the 9:30 am Family Mass and 6:00 pm Mass.



He also blessed all parents present, as the primary Catechists in their children's lives.



We are deeply grateful to those who answer the call to be catechists here at Notre Dame, faithfully sharing their time, talent, and treasure in this special ministry!

Family Faith Formation: Start of a New Faith Year

This past Saturday, September 20, we started our first formation sessions of the 2025-2026 year. Our **Pathways Seek** session was held on Saturday morning and was an introduction and welcome for eighteen new families to Notre Dame and to those new to formation.

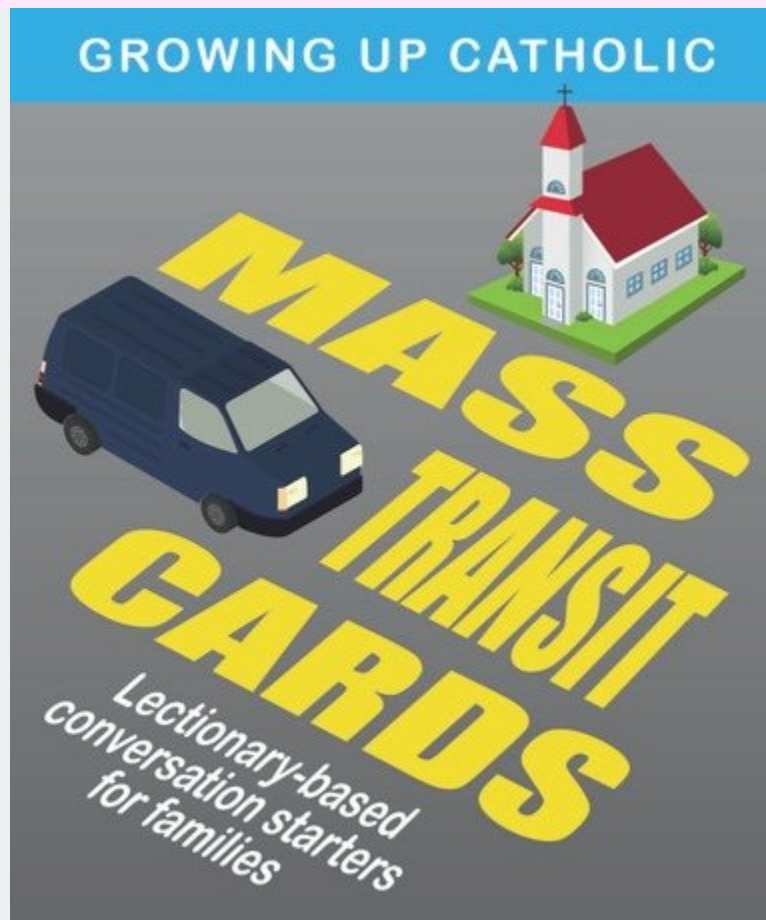


On Sunday, we held our first **Non-Sacramental Witness** session, for grades 3-6, with 14 families. In this program families will encounter the lives of the Saints and how through their example, we can live lives of holiness.





Please continue to pray for all our parents, children and catechists this year as continue our formation with the families!



What was one new insight the homily gave you?

"We need to be good stewards of what God has given us."

"We need to put God's blessings to work."

Was there something special you noticed at Mass today?

"We didn't go to the front."

"Special blessing of the catechists and parents."

"It's still in y our pockets (Give what God gave you)"

"Supporting the church is important."

"Good and bad news: we have enough money and it's in your wallet."

"That we enter life with nothing and we will pass with nothing."

"Community is important and is more helpful when we give to the church."

"We are born with nothing and die with nothing but it's the in between that matters."

"What we do with our money, time and talents shows where our heart is."

"Pick Jesus. I should come to church on the weekend."

"It is important to prioritize time and money for God."

"We are the managers and caretakers of what belongs to God."

"We need to make serving in our church a priority."

"Spend money on what you need not onlyu what you want."

"We are who we are by the grace of God."

"There was no kids choir."

"Different singer."

"We read the prayers of the faithful."

"To share and don't always dwell on your belongings."

"Mass seemed full today."

"There are new flower arrangements and the catechists were blessed."

"There was a new singer, and new plants."

"Deacon missing."

"Someone else is singing."

"Catechists stood and were blessed."

"The gold house. We discussed that the host is kept in this special place."

"Praying for catechist and parents of those who teach our kids our faith."

"Fr. Paddy celebrated the mass."

"The giant spider web on the roof."

"The cross and how much God loves us. Jacob and JP brought the Eucharist to the priest."

"Very crowded, which is lovely to see."

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

**Parishioner
Announcements**

Memories that share our story...

7:30 am Mass



9:30 am Mass



