



**NOTRE DAME  
OF MT. CARMEL CHURCH**

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**Parish Update: September 3, 2025**

**Our Holy Father's Prayer Intentions for  
September 2025**

For our  
relationship  
with all of  
creation

SEPTEMBER 2025



THE POPE VIDEO

Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



## A New Season of Grace and Growth

September marks a fresh beginning for many—a return to school, new routines, and for us as a parish, the joyful resumption of many of our ministries and offerings. While the Lord walks faithfully with us throughout every season, this new chapter in our calendar year invites us to be especially mindful of His presence and purpose in our lives.

As we step into this season together, we pray that our parish community may be filled with the Holy Spirit—renewed in heart and open to...

1. **Worship** our Lord with deeper passion and gratitude for the countless gifts He so generously pours out;
2. **Invest intentionally** in growing our personal faith, deepening our prayer lives, and strengthening our relationship with Jesus;
3. **Engage joyfully** in the life of our parish, offering our time, talents, and treasures with love, gratitude and purpose!

## Try – Taste and See

*Love doesn't grow from the sidelines. You've got to step onto the field. That might look like signing up for Alpha, attending Mass, or starting a conversation with someone who looks just as unsure as you. Start small, but start somewhere. Reach out, try, and see what happens when you open yourself to grace.*

ron@huntleyleadership



## ***Situation in Gaza "Cries Out" for our Help:*** **Voluntary Special Collection for Gaza Relief**

*"Today I renew a strong appeal ... that an end be put to the conflict in the Holy Land, which has caused so much terror, destruction, and death ... I appeal for all hostages to be freed, a permanent ceasefire to be reached, the safe entry of humanitarian aid to be facilitated, and humanitarian law to be fully respected—especially ... the prohibitions against collective punishment, the indiscriminate use of force, and the forced displacement of populations." Pope Leo XIV*





*"Our Church mourns the terrible suffering of Christians and other innocent victims of violence in Gaza and surrounding areas who are struggling to survive, protect their children, and live with dignity in dire conditions. The Holy Father continues to call for a cease fire and for aid to enter the territory, noting with great sorrow that "Gaza is starving.""* Archbishop Broglio

*"Looking around the world, we see many fires burning that are not of divine origin. We, however, are filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray together that we will set alight the fire of God's love that burns away hatred and violence with the light of our compassion and hope, bringing God's consolation to the suffering wherever we are able."* Bishop Kevin Sweeney

## USCCB/ Diocesan Voluntary Special Collection for Gaza Relief

**Sept. 13 & 14  
at all Weekend  
Masses**

Funds collected in  
our Diocese will be  
sent to CNEW  
(Catholic Near East  
Welfare Association  
and CRS (Catholic  
Relief Services)

Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development **CAFOD**



The situation in the Gaza Strip is worrying and painful. I renew my heartfelt appeal to allow the entry of sufficient humanitarian aid and to put an end to the hostilities, the heartbreaking price of which is paid by children, the elderly, the sick.

**Pope Leo XIV**



Please consider supporting this Special Collection for Gaza. To read more about this direct call for help from Bishop Kevin Sweeney to our Diocese, click [HERE](#).

## Open to the Mission

The Lord presents us with many opportunities to share His love and hope with others. When our hearts are aligned with His call to make that difference, His light shines bright on those opportunities; and when we step into them with love, intention, and hope—even when the “how” isn’t fully clear—the Holy Spirit blesses and brings fruitfulness to our efforts.

# Open to the Mission

## *Beyond Our Walls*



Sometimes the mission is something we plan and carry out together, like **Operation Appalachia**, **Cornerstone**, or **Alpha**. Other times -- **actually most times** -- we have the opportunity to be missionary as individuals, led by quiet nudges from the Holy Spirit. Some missions may take us far from home—like the **Guatemala Outreach**, while others -- **actually most times** -- are as close as our own backyard: reaching out to neighbors (known or otherwise), coworkers, and family members. As Catholics, we are called to be on mission at all times, anytime, anyplace, anywhere. How are we fulfilling that call?

May we open our hearts to that purpose so that we may see the countless opportunities present to us everyday to fulfill our purpose!

## **On Mission as a Godly Grandparent**





While it may not be true for everyone, our culture is indeed leading grandparents to have a bigger role in the care-taking of their grandchildren as they support their own children in the raising of their families. We see a bit of that on Wednesday mornings, during our Moms & Tots sessions, when several little ones are accompanied by their grandparents -- more visibly now than in the previous history of the program here at Notre Dame. It is a joy to see the joy and pride of grandparents having an active role in the faith life of their grandchildren!

Parishioner **Carol Critchley**, grandparent to eight little ones, has embraced with great intention that call to be missionary in her own family, particularly in the lives of her grandchildren. She has prayed, read and researched the topic and is in constant spiritual movement hoping to help make an eternal impact in their lives.

*"During my Women's Cornerstone retreat in 2005 at NDMC, so many women shared how they admired their own grandparents' prayerful life and the influence they had on them. Although I did not have this same experience, I knew that once I became a grandmother, I wanted the Lord to provide the tools to allow me to leave such a legacy for my own grandchildren." Carol Critchley*

So this holy desire has been in Carol's heart since then, and as part of her journey as a grandparent and faith leader, Carol wishes to help inspire, equip and learn from others who find themselves (or will soon find themselves) in a grandparent role. If that is you, or someone you know, please join Carol for this special session on nurturing Grandparents for the mission in their own families!





## TIPS FOR BEING A GODLY GRANDPARENT

Facilitated by Faith Leader, Carol Critchley



### *Legacy of Faith & Love*

*"Join me as we learn from experts, lean on scripture and share prayers, suggestions and tips on how to become a Godly grandparent in order to leave a strong Catholic legacy for our grandchildren." Carol Critchley*

SATURDAY  
**SEP | 27 | 2025**

9:00 - 11:00 AM IN ROOM 201



Please register at [www.ndcarmel.com](http://www.ndcarmel.com)

Questions? Contact Carol Critchley at [majkidmom@gmail.com](mailto:majkidmom@gmail.com)

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## **Hanover Township Day: Be on Mission!**

On Saturday, September 6, 2025, Hanover Township will hold its annual celebration, Hanover Township Day! Community members and friends are invited to enjoy an afternoon filled with live entertainment, games, food, community organization booths, and family-friendly activities.

We know many in our parish will take the invitation to walk around and enjoy a great afternoon as part of the community; and although it was not feasible for our parish to organize a "booth" as part of this celebration this year, we still have the opportunity to witness to who we are -- disciples of Jesus -- through our own hearts and actions, even just walking around and enjoying the afternoon. How can you be on mission at Hanover Township Day?

- Pray for opportunities on that very day to share about our faith in conversation (wherever the Lord wishes to take any opportunity for conversation). Think in advance of some conversation starters!! For example, offer a compliment!
- Of course, wear anything — shirt or otherwise — that speaks of our faith.
- Be intentional about being the first to greet (with a smile!) someone you don't know. Set a goal! How many people will you greet with a smile at this outing?
- Have at hand a little giveaway!
- Do a random act of kindness!

## This Week's Mass & Lamp Intentions

## Parishioner Announcements

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

*9:30 am Mass*









