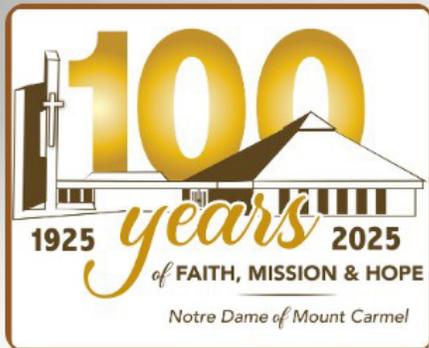


**Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church**

# **PARISH UPDATE**

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

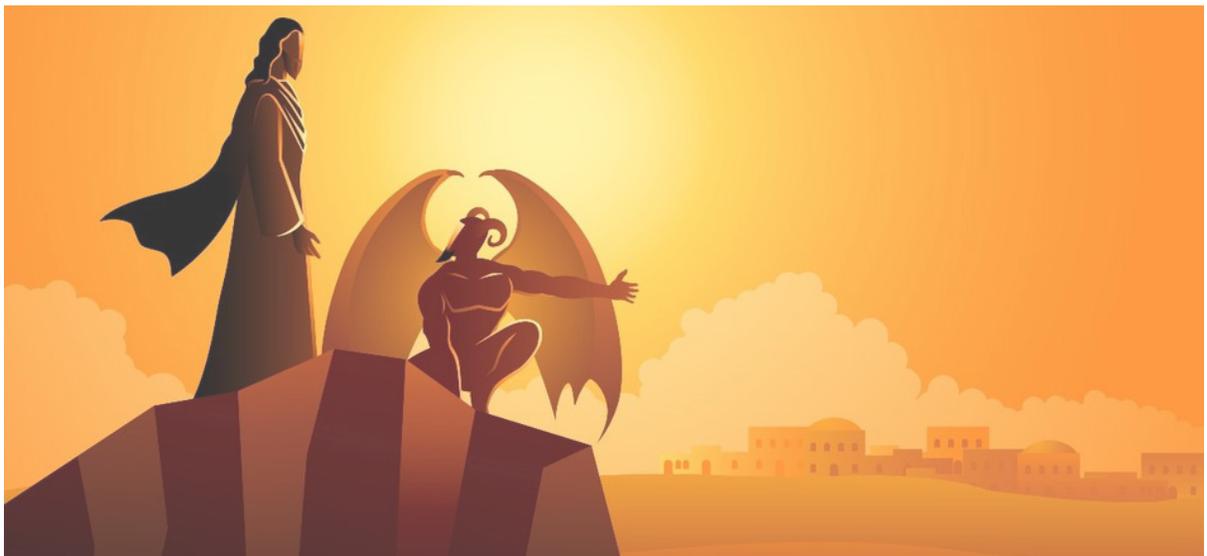


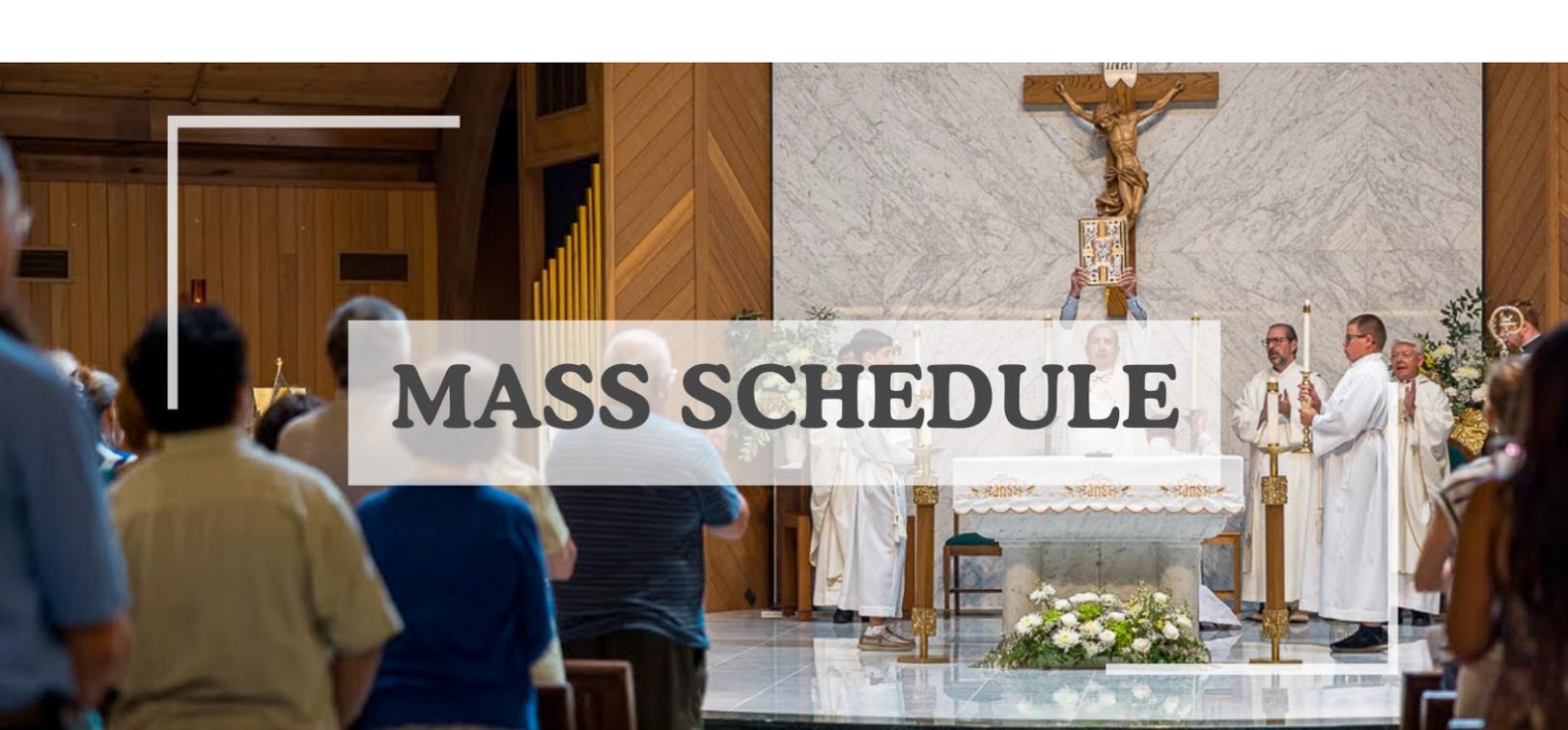
**NOTRE DAME  
OF MT. CARMEL CHURCH**

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

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

**Parish Update: February 24, 2026**





# 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 Holidays (Parish Office Closed)

- Monday, Jan. 19, Martin Luther King's Birthday
- Monday, Feb. 16, President's Day

## 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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Facebook: @ndcarmel  
Instagram: @ndcedarknolls  
YouTube: @NotreDameofMtCarmel

# *Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Staff*



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**Frank Figur**  
*Facilities Support*

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## **Volunteer Main Office Support** *volunteer@ndcarmel.com / x100*



**Patty Gant**



**Agnes Loughlin**



**Mary Malone**



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



*“To approach Jesus with the simplicity of a child is to grasp heaven on earth.”*

*St. Thérèse of Lisieux*

## **Joyful Start to New Year for Widows Circle** **By Marilyn Dolan**

The Widows Group gathered for its first meeting of 2026 on February 15. After attending the 11:30 a.m. Mass, we held a brief meeting in St. Joseph’s Corner Room. During our time together, it was decided that while we will meet less frequently

going forward, we will continue to keep everyone informed about social outings and

Following the meeting, the group headed to The Corner Bistro for a festive Galentine's Day luncheon, where we shared good food, warm conversation, and lots of laughter.



**Our next gathering will be held on March 11.** All widows are warmly welcome to join us—we would love to have you!

Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church - [www.ndcarmel.com](http://www.ndcarmel.com)

Join us in faith & friendship!

*Widows*  
CIRCLE

**WEDNESDAY, March 11, 2026,  
2:00 PM  
in the Upper Room**

There will be a brief meeting in the Upper Room, then we will go to Morristown High School to enjoy the Senior Citizens showing of their Spring Play, *Fiddler on The Roof*.



Those who wish to continue the merriment can attend an **early dinner at Portofino Restaurant**, Early St. Carpooling may be possible. Please RSVP to Marilyn Dolan at [mcdm7@aol.com](mailto:mcdm7@aol.com) or call/text Judy Foster at 973-727-8697, **no later than March 4<sup>th</sup>, as restaurant needs final count.**

**Postmarked from Jerusalem**  
By Diane Byrne, Elementary Family Faith Coordinator

This Lent, our elementary families will participate in *Letters from Jerusalem*. This six-week series will take our families through the last week of Jesus' life on earth. The basis of this series is that the disciples have traveled with Jesus to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. They have no idea this would be His last week on earth.



Each Holy Week event is written as a letter from one of the disciples to their family (Us!) back home. **These letters tell the story of what is happening in Jerusalem while they are with Jesus. The letters contain all Biblical facts from one of the four Gospels, but are just told from the viewpoint of a disciple.**

Each Sunday during Lent, families will receive a letter to read at home along with a list of suggested activities. They are asked to complete one activity.

*Dear Family,*

*We finally made it to Jerusalem. It's been a long trip, but I'm so thankful to be here with Jesus. He is an amazing Teacher. I am learning so much!*

*You'll never believe what happened to us right before we entered Jerusalem. We got to Bethpage on the Mount of Olives and Jesus stopped us. He told two of us to go ahead to the village and bring Him a donkey that is tied there with her colt. He said we would find them as soon as we entered the village. We weren't exactly sure how He knew where this donkey would be, but Jesus hadn't been wrong yet, so we obeyed and did what He said. Right before we went, Jesus also told us that some people may ask us questions about why we are untying this donkey and her colt. Who wouldn't, right? It seems weird that He asked us to take a donkey that isn't ours without asking. But He said for us to tell anyone who asks that the Lord needs it and will bring it back soon. We still weren't sure we would be able to find the donkey, but we did as the Lord told us to.*

*And guess what? Everything happened exactly as Jesus said it would!*

*When we brought the donkey and colt back to Him, we put some cloaks on it, and then Jesus got on and rode it into Jerusalem. And what the people did next was so cool! They spread their cloaks on the ground, laid branches on the ground, and started shouting! So many people were lining the streets shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" It was really loud, but so cool!*

*When we got into Jerusalem, many people were asking who Jesus was. Those who knew began telling everyone that this was Jesus of Nazareth!*

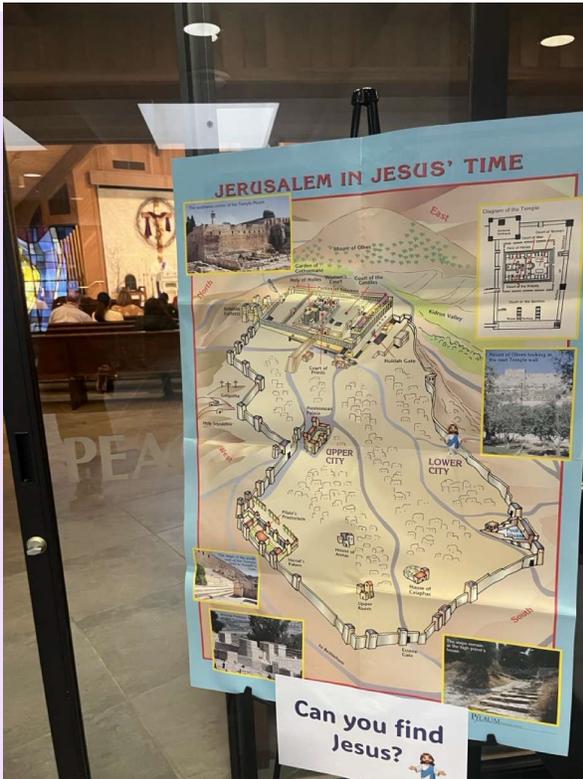
*I pray that what He teaches this week while we are in Jerusalem will be well received by all who hear Him. I want others to believe in Him and who He is, just like I do.*

*I pray you are doing well back home. I can't wait to write again.*

*I love you all,*

*Andrew*





Sunday's letter was from the Apostle Andrew. He wrote about Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. One of the activities families are asked to complete is designing a triumphant entry T-shirt. Other activities included eating Palm Sundaes and palm branch limbo.

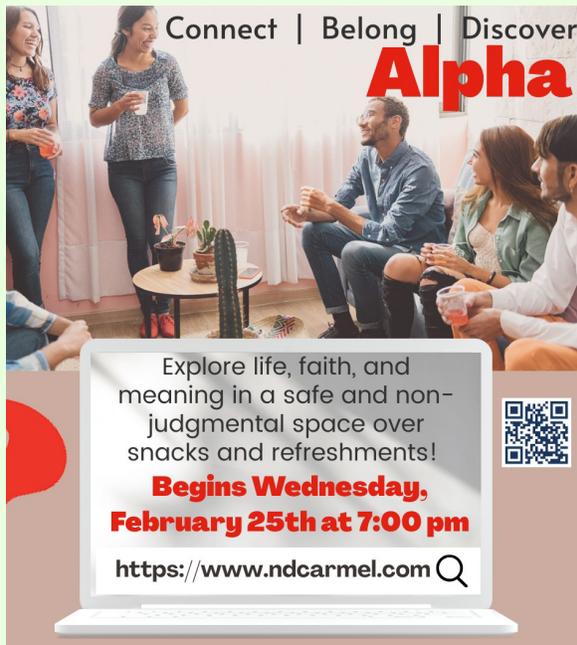


## Prayers for the Journeys!

The Lord has called, and disciples have answered! Our **Lenten Discipleship Groups** have 102 participants this Lent. Our **Small Group Alpha** series has 11 participants, and we just reached 300 souls who've joined us in our **Hallow App Partnership**.

We pray that the journey of these disciples will be a fruitful one, as we pray as well for all the Lenten Resolves lifted to our Lord as part of our walk with Him to the Cross.

It is not too late to join some of these journeys! If your heart hears the Lord's call into a deeper relationship with Him, consider joining -- click image(s) to find out more!



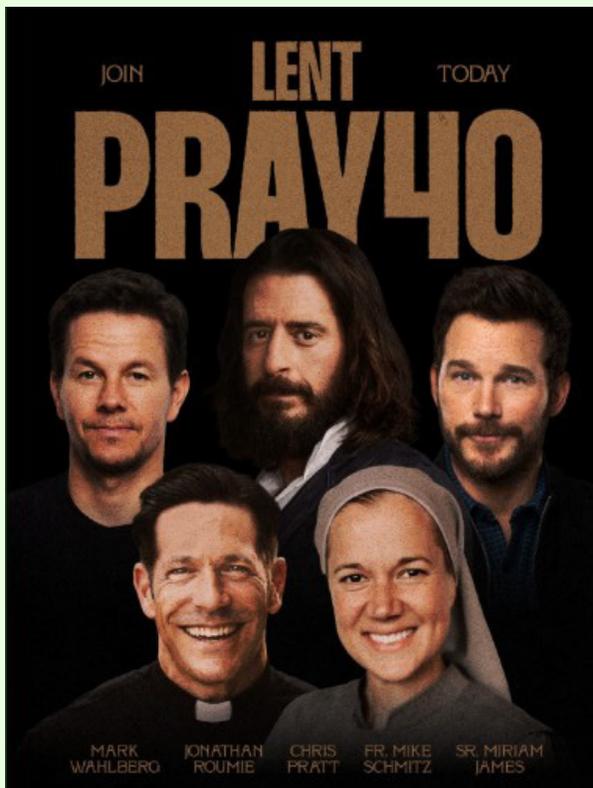
Connect | Belong | Discover  
**Alpha**

Explore life, faith, and meaning in a safe and non-judgmental space over snacks and refreshments!

**Begins Wednesday, February 25th at 7:00 pm**

<https://www.ndcarmel.com>

A group of people is gathered in a casual setting, talking and drinking. The text 'Alpha' is prominently displayed in red. Below the image is a laptop displaying the event details and a QR code.



*“God asks everything of us, yet at the same time He offers everything to us.”*

*Pope Francis*

# Knights Happenings!

By Dennis Fashano, Former Grand Knight



The Knights presented trophies to winners from their annual Free Throw Contest for boys and girls in the 8-14 age bracket at their February 19th meeting. Over 40 children participated, with 8 advancing to the next level. The contest has been an annual event for our Council, with many advancing and winning at the state level.



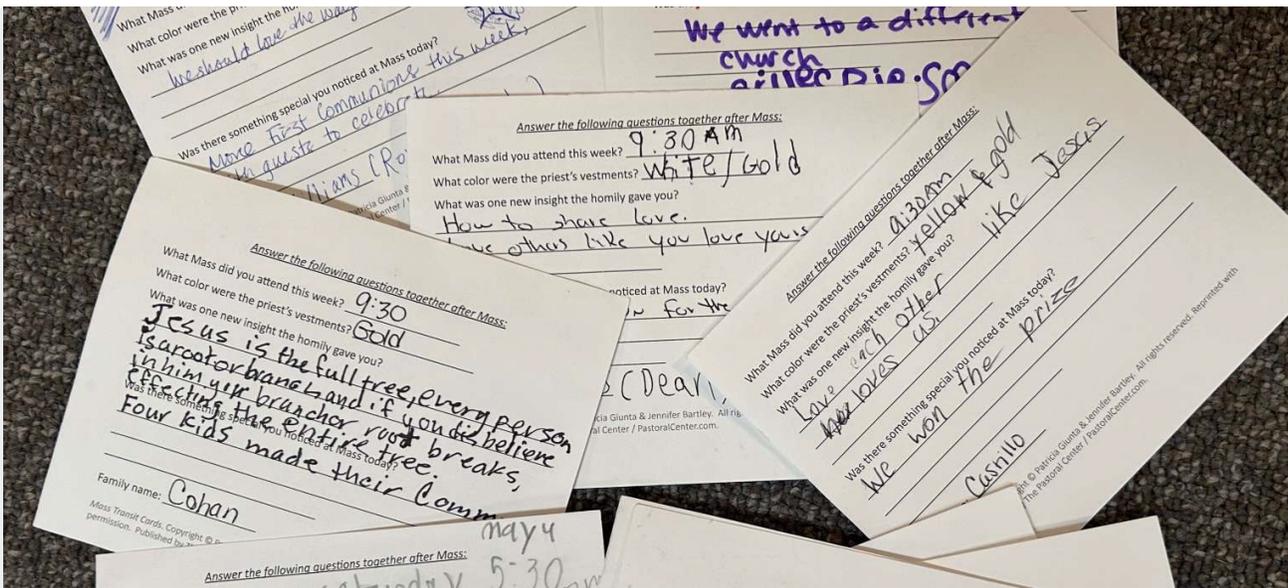
The Knights of Columbus sponsor this annual Free-Throw Contest to provide an athletic outlet for young boys and girls, promoting sportsmanship and healthy competition. It serves as a community outreach initiative to engage local youth, introduce the organization to families, and foster community spirit!

## Roses for Life: Thank you!

The Elizabeth Ann Seton Council # 6904 Knights of Columbus would like to thank you for your very, very generous support of our Roses for Life Drive this January 18th & 19th at Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church and January 25th and 26th at Our Lady of Mercy Church. We raised \$3,000.00; of that total, \$1,500.00 will go to Several Sources Shelters of Ramsey and \$1,500.00 to Birth Haven of Newton so they may continue with their good work of saving young mothers and their babies.



May God bless you all for your prayers and donations, which will go a long way toward ensuring that young mothers and their babies will have a chance at a better life.



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

- "Lent means giving something up for more room for God."
- "Prayer works! It can help us get through life's challenges."
- "Shine bright when you do good or lights off when you do bad."
- "Prayer helps in life."
- "To make good choices."
- "Praying to God is better than food, power, being rich."
- "Satan tempting Jesus 3 times, but Jesus refused to all of them."
- "Don't disobey your parents."
- "Pray, fast and help others."
- "Jesus went into the desert for 40 days."
- "If you need help, ask God by praying."
- "Make room for Jesus."
- "How Jesus was given temptation."
- "Temptation pulls us away from God. We can be tempted and overcome the wrong."

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

- "There is a circle around the cross."
- "Bare trees on the altar."
- "There were a lot of kids at the front and listening to the laws."
- "We saw friends."
- "There is a purple sash on Jesus."
- "There was a new alter server."
- "My pa is doing the homily."
- "It's the first Sunday in Lent."
- "A big plant."
- "A different song."
- "It's a very special time for the church."
- "Everything was purple."

## This Week's Mass & Lamp Intentions

## Parishioner Announcements

### *Memories that Share Our Story...*

*5 pm Vigil Mass (Reel)*





*Family Mass*







*11:30 am Mass*



# *A Final Thought...*

*"If I live the next twenty-five years of my life the way I've lived the last seven days of my life, who will I be at the end of the story? Because the reality, of course, is that every life is a story. The reality is that every person is an author. The question is, who will you become at the end of your story?"*

*We realize there's always a moment in every story when someone picks up the pen and begins to write on purpose. The moment where the story becomes your life story, where it actually becomes an autobiography, because you finally made a decision: Okay, I'm going to be the coauthor. I'm not just gonna be a passenger in my life.*

*In this Lent, we get to ask the question, will I be coauthor with God in writing this autobiography, or will I attempt to be happy apart from God?*

*Fr. Mike Schmitz (Lent Pray40: The Return)*

