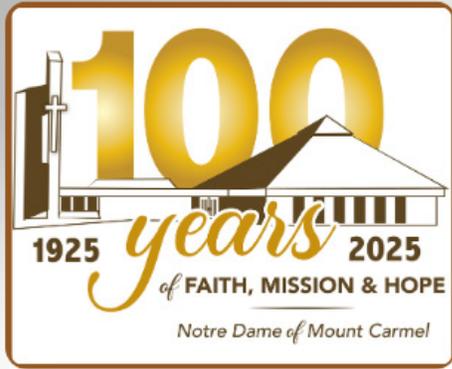


Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church

PARISH UPDATE

www.ndcarmel.com



**NOTRE DAME
OF MT. CARMEL CHURCH**

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

www.ndcarmel.com

Parish Update: March 10, 2026



2026 Lenten & Easter Schedule



PRAY

FAST

GIVE

Ash Wednesday,
February 18

Masses w/ Distribution of Ashes: 7:30 AM, 12 PM & 5:30 PM
Liturgy of the Word w/ Distribution of Ashes: 9:30 AM & 3:30 PM

Lenten Mass Schedule
Thu. Feb 19 - Wed. Apr 1

Mon-Fri: 7:30 AM and 12 Noon
Sat: 12 Noon; 5 PM Vigil
Sun: 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM & 6 PM

Adoration of
The Blessed Sacrament

Thursdays, 6 - 7 PM
Fridays, 8 AM - 3 PM

Confessions

Mondays during Lent: 7 - 8:30 PM
Saturdays (exc. Holy Saturday): 12:45 PM
Tuesday, March 24, 7 - 9 PM

Stations of the Cross

Fridays: 12:40 PM

Palm Sunday, March 29

Sat. March 28: 5 PM Vigil
Sun: 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM (Outdoor Procession at 9:15 AM)
11:30 AM & 6 PM

Holy Thursday, April 2

Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:30 PM
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
through Midnight

Good Friday, April 3

Liturgy of the Passion: 3 PM
Living Stations of the Cross: 8 PM

Holy Saturday, April 4

Blessing of the Food: 11 AM
Easter Vigil: 8 PM

Easter Sunday, April 5

Masses at 7:30 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM
(no Mass at 6 PM)

Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Staff



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



Patty Gant



Agnes Loughlin



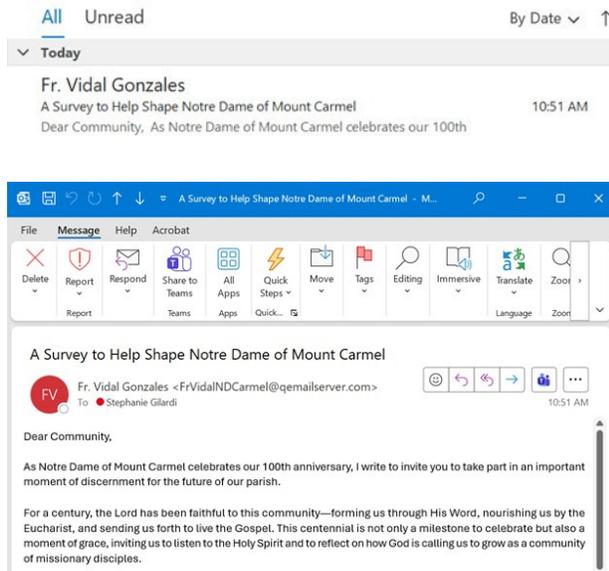
Mary Malone



Sallyann Augello
Database Administrator
registration@ndcarmel.com

Reminder: Your Voice in Our Parish Future

Last Thursday, an email went out from Fr. Vidal requesting your feedback through a survey as we plan for the future of our parish. **Please note that the email was not sent from Father's ndcarmel email, but from an email address from the survey administrator's platform.** Please see the images below for reference, and be sure to check your spam folder if you did not receive the email.



The survey will be open through this Friday, March 13. Your feedback is essential to our efforts so please take a few minutes to submit the survey. Thank you!

If you have any questions, please email commsupport@ndcarmel.com. Bless you!

Finance Update: Monthly Offertory Collection



OSV	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
2025	\$36,756	\$42,503	\$40,904	\$37,966	\$48,507	\$46,012
2026	\$42,062	\$44,216				
Offline	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
2025	\$37,171	\$29,603	\$38,035	\$31,709	\$53,725	\$55,387
2026	\$32,404	\$31,238				
TOTAL	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
2025	\$73,927	\$73,920	\$78,939	\$69,675	\$102,232	\$101,399
2026	\$74,466	\$75,454				



Our February Offertory Giving results reflect a slight increase compared to the same time last year, for which we are very grateful. Given the impact of recent inclement weather on Mass attendance, we anticipated that offertory giving might be adversely affected. Weather-related challenges not only influence attendance and giving but also increase our operating expenses. Since December 2nd through the end of February, the parish has spent nearly \$28,000 on snow removal alone.



We are deeply thankful to those who faithfully support our parish through regular Offertory Giving. If you are not currently participating, we invite you to prayerfully consider making a commitment to support our faith community and our mission through your generosity. We also encourage **online giving**, which helps sustain consistent support for the parish even when circumstances make it difficult to attend Mass in person. Please visit our website [HERE](#) for details on how to provide more fruitful support to our parish through Offertory Giving.

Lenten Seminary Musings

By Seminarian Eric Hasenbein

Hello NDMC,

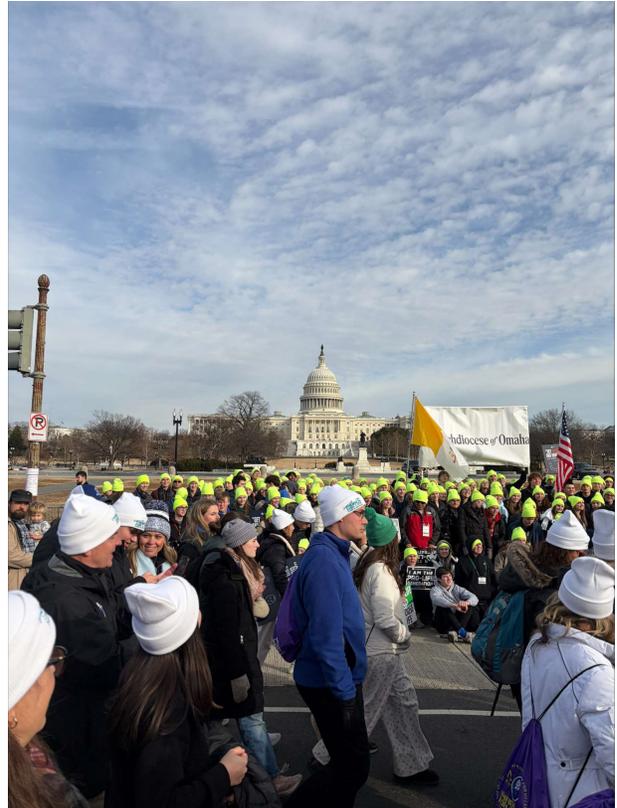
It was a joy to see some of you a couple of weeks ago at Sunday Mass. As seminarians, we have the opportunity to do parish weekends; a time to be away from the seminary and be immersed in parish life for a brief period as part of our formation.

While I probably won't be back until Palm Sunday and the Triduum, I have kept all of you in my prayers this Lent.



At seminary [Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall], we do more than just philosophy, theology, and scripture. We learn to model ourselves after "the good shepherd" (Jn. 10:11). This Lent, I have been striving to do this in my human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation. I've had the opportunity to build

community with my brother seminarians and others through service and being witnesses of life. We visited the Carmelite monastery in Morristown. Had a few snowball fights in our courtyard during the blizzards this winter. We have discussed recent issues in the church and how to best build up the body of Christ and seek that "they all may be one" (Jn. 17:21). I've had the privilege in my apostolate at a nursing home to journey and build friendship with a faithful priest of the Diocese of Metuchen who unfortunately passed away last week.



Last weekend, other seminarians and I journeyed with young men on a discernment retreat at the Loyola retreat house in Morristown. Bishop Sweeney led the retreat, and we entered into prayer as we opened our hearts to hear the will of the Father in our lives. We have dived deeper into the Gospel of John, exploring the depths of God's Word in history and in the many ways he speaks to us today. We also recently had a Lenten retreat led by the CFRs, examining the life of St. Francis and how, as a young man, he devoted himself to model after Christ's poverty, chastity, and obedience.



Life at the seminary is certainly never a dull moment! The Lord uses this time to mold our hearts after his own Sacred Heart so that we may one day be faithful laborers in the field with Him. The days are long, but with your continued prayers, I am confident that many other men discerning the call of the priesthood and I will be molded by His hands to be the best shepherds that will help gather the flock into the bosom of the Father.



I am looking forward to celebrating our Lord's defeat over death at the Triduum. Please keep me and all the men at Immaculate Conception Seminary in your prayers. We will keep you all in ours!

- Eric

PRAYER FOR SEMINARIANS

O Lord Jesus Christ, great High Priest,
lead our seminarians in Your unerring footsteps.
Teach them humility and fidelity
to unselfishly serve others.

May their devotion to Our Blessed Mother,
Queen of Vocations, increase
and enable them to do Your will.
Keep all evil far from them, so that
they may become strong Christian men,
faithful to prayer and docile to formation.

Give them courage and perseverance in their studies.
Teach them generosity and detachment
from worldly goods; but above all,
teach them to know You and to love You,
the One and Only Eternal Priest.
Amen.



Called & Gifted: Small Group Discernment

Following the Called & Gifted Workshop held in November, three small groups continued their charism-discernment journey using resources from the Catherine of Siena Institute. Over eight weeks, participants met four times for prayer, discussion, and discernment updates, while also committing to prayer between sessions, experimenting with their charisms, and remaining open to the guidance of the Holy

Spirit.

Below, we share **excerpts** of insights from participants of the first group to complete this small-group discernment process.



Pictured above (L-R): Ann Bono, Victoria Rossi, Debby Kispert, Maureen Swan, Helen Krisiewicz, and Stan Rydtz. Not pictured: Pat Madden.

"It was such joy to facilitate and see the transformation in 7 people's lives over the 8-week journey. Our group quickly bonded and truly trusted one another. We began a

"I'm often reluctant to tell friends that I'm in the "Called and Gifted" program because it can sound as though I'm claiming to be uniquely chosen or specially endowed. In

text group, which has been supportive and helped us stay connected between sessions. It was useful for quick reminders and for sharing prayer requests or links related to charisms. Our plan is to stay connected via text and email going forward.” Debby Kispert, Called & Gifted Small Group Facilitator

“My time with the Called & Gifted program led me to discover more about myself and the gifts God gave me. I loved learning about the different kinds of charisms and wondering not only which charisms I may have but which charisms other people might have. This was especially the case once I attended the workshop and even more so during the eight weeks of meeting with and praying for people in my small group... I hope that Notre Dame continues to have the Called & Gifted program because I believe it will continue to make a difference in people’s lives, just like it made a difference in mine.” Victoria Rossi

“When I decided to discern my Charism of Leadership, I had no idea where the process would take me, but I was open to wherever the Holy Spirit led me... Meeting with the other members of my group and receiving Debby’s guidance transformed the way I look at my Charism. In a way, I feel transformed by what has taken place in our group. I feel truly led by the Holy Spirit to use my gifts to help others.” Ann Bono

reality, anyone who has been baptized and confirmed is both called and gifted... I feel fortunate to be part of a group filled with such intelligent and insightful people. I’m confident that through this process, I’ll learn how to use my God-given gifts in ways that are both deeply meaningful and truly fruitful for others.” Stan Rydz

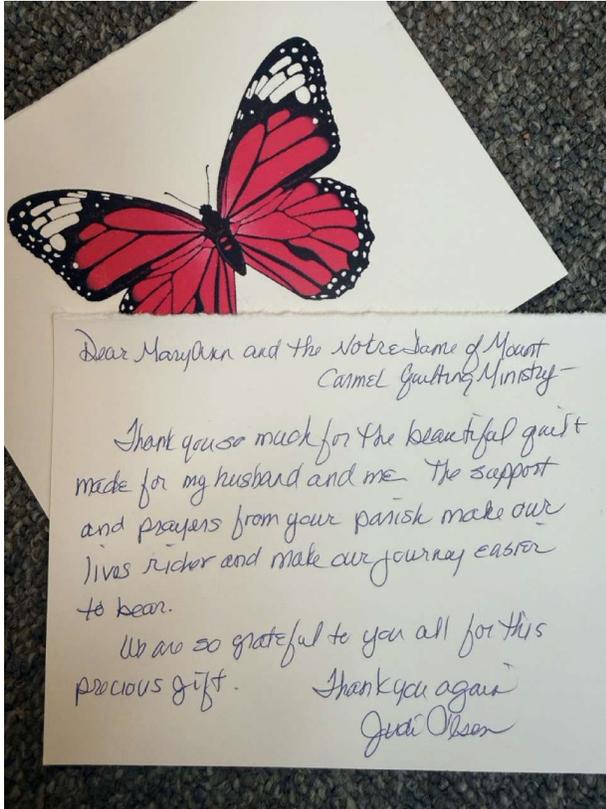
“This process was truly enlightening... Beyond the initial discernment, the four small-group meetings that followed prompted me to put this knowledge into action. Knowing I was accountable to the team ensured I took the actions I committed to after each meeting. Plus, the group cared about and supported one another along the way. In this way, I accomplished much more than I would have done on my own. It was a privilege and joy to be part of this endeavor.” Maureen Swan

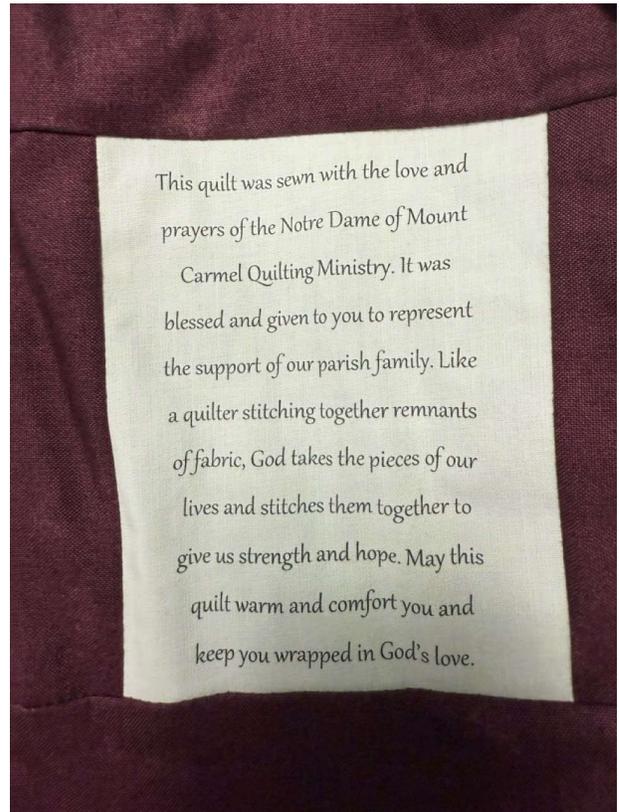
“This was an opportunity to study, reflect, pray, and put a possible Charism into action. I appreciated the feedback and suggestions from my small group and enjoyed reflecting, praying, and vocalizing on the group’s charisms. Inviting the Holy Spirit in to work with us was amazing. I feel I can move forward in my daily life to continue to test this charism and another one that I was made aware of, hoping to continue to do our Lord’s work with more intention, guidance, prayer, and joy.” - Helen Krisiewicz

Click [HERE](#) for these participants' full testimonials!

Generous Hearts of Notre Dame: Stitching Prayer, Comfort, and Support

Our Quilting Ministers are faithful servants stitching beautiful quilts behind the scenes. Their efforts are rooted in prayer and the fruits of their labors blessed and sent off to touch hearts in need of healing and comfort.





Postmarked from Jerusalem

By Diane Byrne, Elementary Family Faith Coordinator



On Sunday, families received a letter from the Apostle John. He wrote about preparing for and celebrating Passover with Jesus.

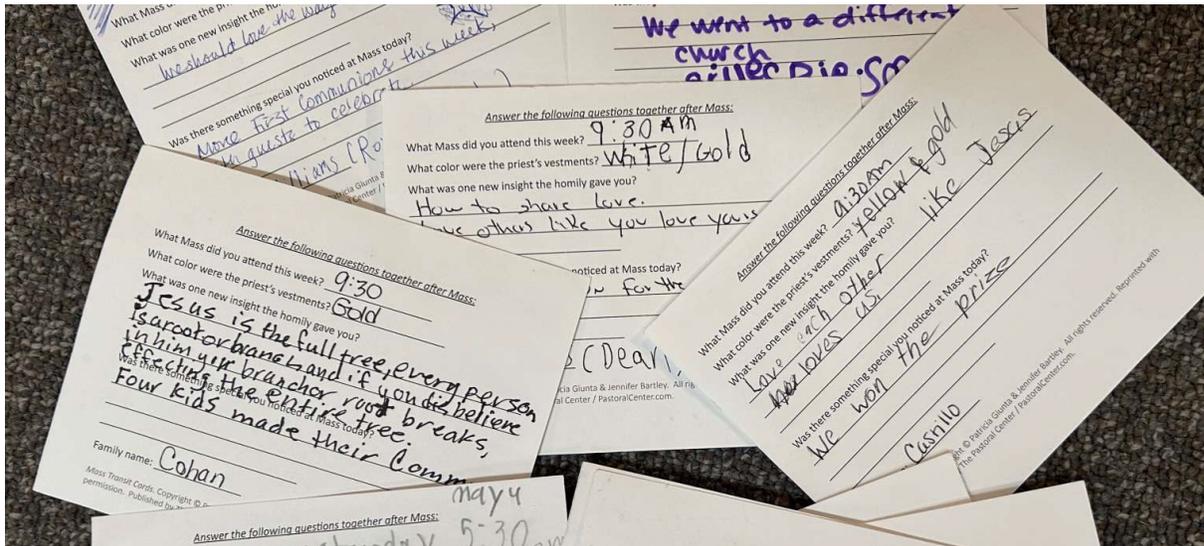
The activities families are asked to complete include having a simple Last Supper meal and writing a letter to their grandparents.



**Congratulations to our 3rd Grade
NDMC/OLM CYO Champs!**



Mass Transit Cards



"You need to show you're listening and not say it."

"When we need something Jesus is here for us."

"We should pray more and go to the Stations of the Cross because it is Lent."

"Water of life never runs dry through Jesus."

"Jesus's love, kindness and friendship is the kind of water that never runs out."

"Jesus met a woman at a well. She gave him water. She told people about Jesus."

"Jesus offered the water to the people and his body and blood."

"Jesus fills our hearts with courage, love and joy."

"Our heart longs for peace, love and happiness."

"The deepest thirst we carry is not for material things or achievements."

"Jesus never rejects us no matter what we have done or how many times we've fallen. God begins with us every single day."

"Lent is the perfect time to listen to Jesus. The Father directs our hearts and minds to one source of truth and salvation, Jesus Christ, Himself alone."

"God's water symbolizes his love. His love never runs out."

"There was a different person playing the piano."

"Double heart."

"The Deacon received his doctorate in Canon Law."

"It is Lent/Daylight Savings today."

"I saw that there is a design on the tablecloth" on the altar and tabernacle."

"I got to pass out the books."

"It is the 3rd week in Advent."

"I noticed there was a lot of purple."

"Our good friend, Christina, did a wonderful reading and mass was said for my great Aunt Kathleen."

"We will get a new letter from Jerusalem from Andrew."

"The choir at the 11:30 mass is different from the 9:30 mass. Normally we attend the family mass. One of my friends normally attends at 11:30."

"Cloth and plants."

"No Deacon today."

"Candles on altar."

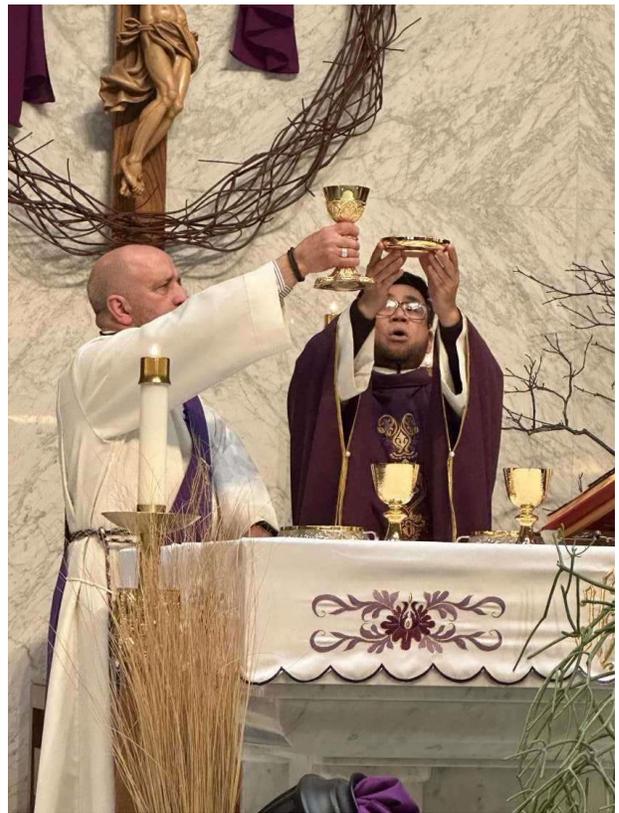
"My mom did a reading."

"There are new faces in the congregation."

Memories that Share Our Story...

Family Mass





11:30 am Mass



6 pm Mass



A Final Thought...

*"...Because only when we get to that place of **acceptance** where we realize, I hate that this is part of my story, but I'm willing to accept this as part of my story. It's only then that we can take the next step. And the next step that Jesus offers is so powerful.*

*If the first step is **acceptance**, the next step is absolutely necessary, and it is completely powerful, and that step is **redemption.**"*

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



