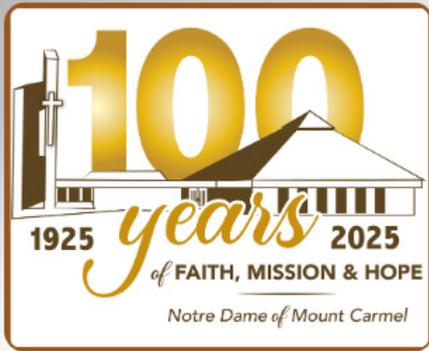


**Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel Church**

# **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: March 17, 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*



**Fr. Vidal Gonzales (Pastor)**  
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**Deacon Eric Kispert**  
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**Leo Ramirez**  
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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*



## **THE HEART Young Adults**

**By Maddie Dale, Young Adults Ministry Leader**

We are excited to share a wonderful update from our Young Adult Ministry at Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel! Over the past year, our gatherings have grown significantly, becoming a welcoming space for adults in their 20s and 30s to come together in faith, friendship, and fellowship. What began as a small group has grown into a vibrant community where young adults gather regularly for prayer nights, discussions, social outings, and parish involvement while deepening their relationship with Christ and building meaningful connections with one another.

As this ministry continues to grow, we are proud to introduce our new name: THE HEART Young Adults — Rooted in the Heart of Christ. Inspired by the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the name reflects our mission to foster a community grounded in faith, compassion, and authentic connection. Our goal is to continue strengthening a place where young adults feel welcomed, safe, encouraged in their faith, and inspired to live out the Gospel in their daily lives.



Above, we are shown gathered for our recent St. Patrick's Day potluck! The evening included plenty of fellowship as well as intentional space for young adults to come before the Lord with their personal intentions. Each person was invited to light a candle and spend a few moments in prayer, reflecting, surrendering, and speaking to God from their hearts. It was a really peaceful and powerful experience—there was a sense of stillness in the room, and you could truly feel how meaningful it was for everyone present.



Fr. Vidal has been such a blessing to our ministry. His presence, guidance, and encouragement have helped create a strong spiritual foundation for our young adults. Whether through his prayers, conversations, or simply being present with us, he has made a lasting impact and continues to support this community's growth in a genuine and pastoral way.



Looking ahead, we hope to continue growing this ministry as a vibrant part of parish life. We invite the Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel community to support our young adults by keeping them in your prayers, welcoming and encouraging them as they grow in faith, and helping share this ministry with young adults who may be seeking community and a deeper relationship with Christ. Your support helps create a place where young adults feel seen, supported, and connected within the life of our parish.

*One Parish.  
One Family.  
One Heart*



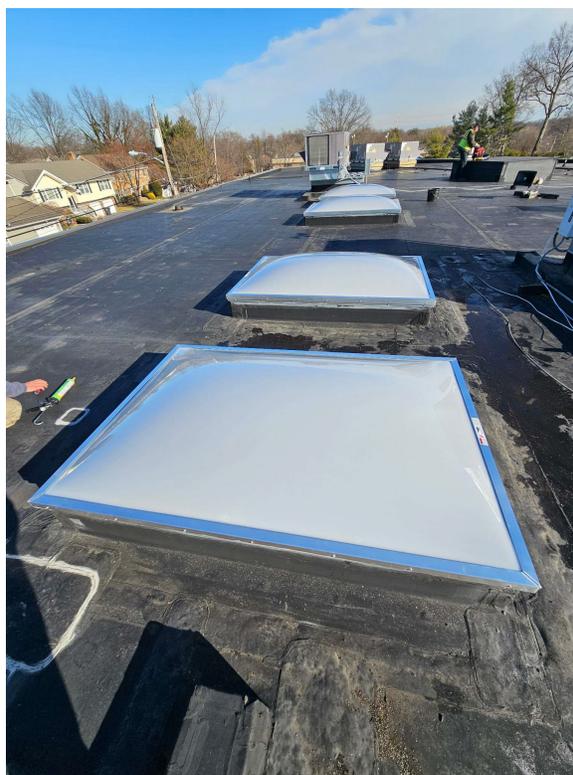
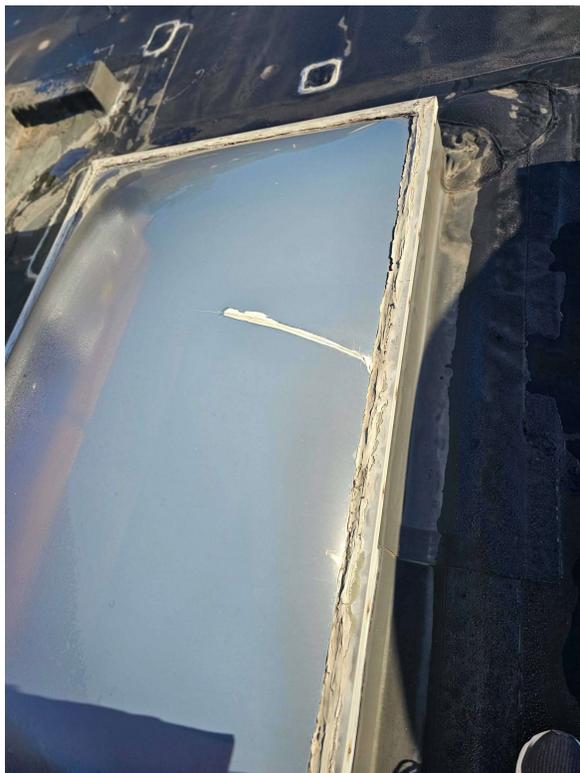
## NDMC Facilities Update

by Leo Ramirez

*This past fall, we began a multi-phase project to upgrade our church roof. **Phase I**, completed in November, involved replacing the flat roof area of the church (\$54,700) and replacing the electrical rack (\$10,000).*



***Phase II** was just completed and involved replacing the four oversized skylights in our Gathering Space (\$8,400). Hopefully, you can now see the daylight shining more clearly into our gathering space.*



*Phase III will involve replacing the main church roof (dome) along with the two larger skylights above the worship space, which lift our eyes toward the Lord. This phase, more complex and costly (estimated at \$70,000), will be completed at a later time.*

*You may also recall the flood we experienced back in October. This was caused by a malfunction in our aging water softener system, which had been in place for 25 years. The unit has now been replaced (\$12,000).*



*Thank you for your continued support as we maintain and improve our facilities, day by day, so that our parish may remain a safe and welcoming place for all parishioners and visitors. - Leo Ramirez, Facilities Manager*

## Called & Gifted: Small Group Discernment

Last week, we shared about the first of three small groups journeying through deeper charism-discernment. This week, we share an update on the second small group of five who completed their 8-week journey last Thursday.



*Pictured above (L-R): Jennifer Chianta, Cristina Folan, Karen Fajardo, Laura Balogh, and Ellen Rollin (joined the last session via Zoom).*

*"When I first took the spiritual gifts inventory, I found it genuinely interesting - but it was the personal interview that changed everything. A charism I hadn't even considered surfaced during that conversation, and it became the one I committed to discerning. The small group that followed gave me something I didn't expect: a space where I could be vulnerable about my questions and uncertainties, and where I could witness others doing the same. Listening to my fellow participants share their own journeys was one of the real gifts of the experience. The program has concluded, but the real work is just beginning - and I'm grateful for the new trajectory it has opened up in my life. If you've been curious about Called and Gifted, I'd encourage you to take the step. You may be surprised by what emerges." Jennifer Chianta*

*"I started my charism discernment process with some doubts and uncertainty, but the light of the Holy Spirit dispelled all doubts and uncertainty. Having the accompaniment of other wonderful and intelligent people also helped me to see things from a different perspective. The small-group meetings gave me the opportunity to share this experience in an environment in which I felt welcomed, loved, respected, and accepted. Knowing that I was being heard respectfully allowed me to speak confidently about my doubts and fears. Thanks to the four weeks of discernment, I was certain that the charism I was discerning is truly a charism and a very beautiful gift from God. Most importantly, during our meetings, I could see how the Holy Spirit moved powerfully among us and touched our hearts to help and guide one another. This process has been transformative for my spiritual life, and I am forever thankful for the opportunity to participate in the Called and Gifted workshop at Notre Dame of Mount Carmel."*

*"The Called & Gifted small group was a fruitful and inspiring experience for me. Meeting with the members, praying together, and receiving their support and encouragement helped me to discern the charism I'm exploring. Having the pre-work and structure was an invaluable tool for the first 8 weeks of my discernment process, and I now feel confident that I can continue the experimentation process individually. At our last meeting, we each had the opportunity to pray over each other, which was extremely moving and beautiful. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity! I believe this should be offered again for those who missed it the first time." Laura Balogh*

*"The discernment of charisms is essential so that each person may find their place in the Body of Christ."*

*— Pope Benedict XVI*

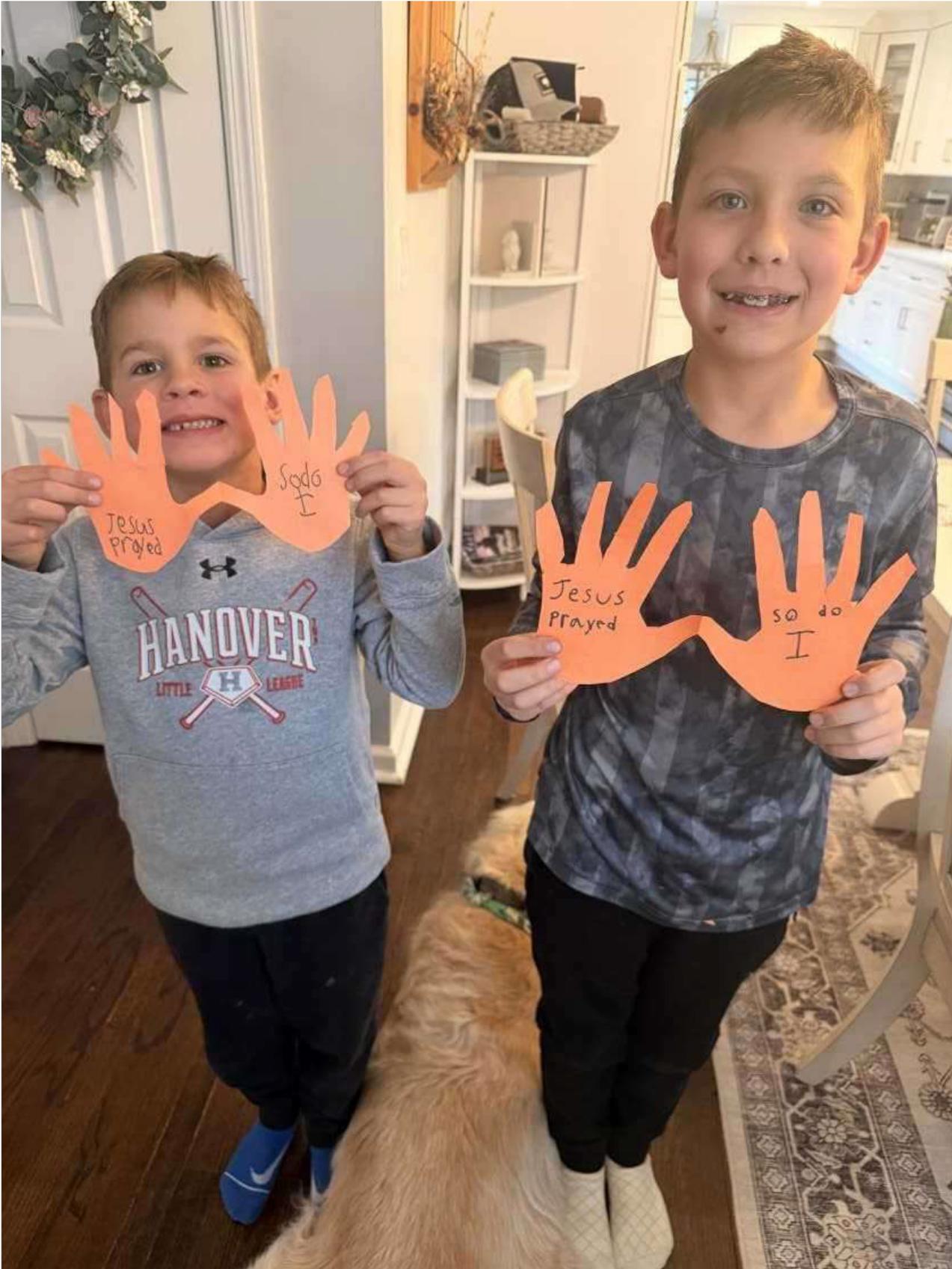
# Postmarked from Jerusalem

By Diane Byrne, Elementary Family Faith Coordinator



This past Sunday, families received a letter from the Apostle Peter. He was very distraught. What began with praying in the Garden of Gethsemane turned out to be a heartbreaking event when Jesus was arrested.

The activities families are asked to complete include making a praying-hands card and a prayer journal.



*From previous weeks...*



## **Knights of Columbus St. Patty's Day Celebration!**

**By Dennis Fashano, Former Grand Knight**

The Knights celebrated St. Patty's Day last Saturday at Our Lady of Mercy with 115 attendees who were treated to delicious corned beef and cabbage cooked by the council's "A" cooking team. Guests enjoyed dancing to a live band!



The Knights are not only builders of fraternity among themselves, but



catalysts for a wider communion—  
strengthening the parishes from within  
while radiating hope and Christian unity  
far beyond it.

## **Widows Circle: Blessed by Community**

**By Marilyn Dolan - Ministry Co-Leader**

The Widows Group met on March 11 in the Upper Room for a brief gathering where we offered a prayer of gratitude for the many cherished memories shared with our spouses. Fourteen widows then attended the senior performance of *Fiddler on the Roof* at Morristown High School, and all agreed it was marvelous. After the show, we enjoyed a delicious and fun-filled dinner together at Portofino's Restaurant. We were also happy to welcome three new members to the group!



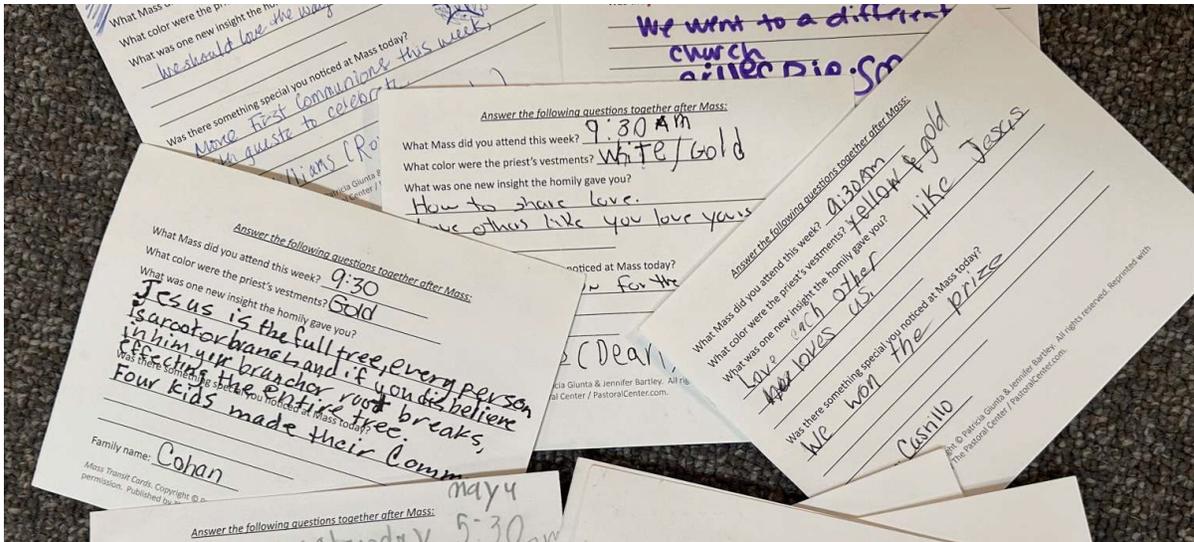
Our next event will be attending a play at the Mayo Performing Arts Center. In addition, we will be planning a Mass for the repose of our spouses; more information will follow.

We are truly blessed to have such a caring ministry in our parish. Any widow wishing to join is warmly invited to email Marilyn Dolan at [mdec7@aol.com](mailto:mdec7@aol.com).



*Sometimes the support  
we need most comes  
from someone walking  
the same path.*

# Mass Transit Cards



## What was one insight the homily gave you?

*"Jesus had the man wipe mud and spit onto his eyes and wash it off so he could then see. Jesus is the light of the world."*

*"Ask for the water of life and you will never be thirsty."*

*"Jesus gives us living water. The water represents love and forgiveness."*

*"His love is water that lasts forever."*

*"In the beginning the man did not know Jesus, but He gave him his sight, a miracle".*

*"Jesus is the light of the world."*

*"Look for the good in everything."*

*"Fr. Paddy played a song that said there is good in everyone."*

*"Only Jesus can fill the deepest thirst in our lives."*

*"Jesus unblinded someone with mud."*

*"Find our goodness inside our hearts."*

*"You shouldn't be blind to God."*

*"We should trust and love Jesus."*

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

*"This gospel was really long."*

*"We saw some friends. We brought up the gifts."*

*"It's crowded."*

*"Fr. Paddy is here."*

*"Mary has very beautiful flowers in front of her."*

*"I read a prayer."*

*"All the kids in the choir were wearing green."*

*"By the Tabernacle there were pink flowers."*

## This Week's Mass & Lamp Intentions

## Parishioner Announcements



We mourn the passing of longtime parishioner **Bob Smith**, who entered eternal rest this past Sunday, March 15. Bob and his wife, Terry—faithful witnesses to the Sacrament of Marriage for nearly 65 years—have been devoted members of Notre Dame Parish for 62 years, generously sharing their time, talent, and treasure in support of our parish family. In a special way, Bob lent his voice and spirit to our Notre Dame Music Ministry, faithfully singing week in and week out throughout his years as a parishioner.

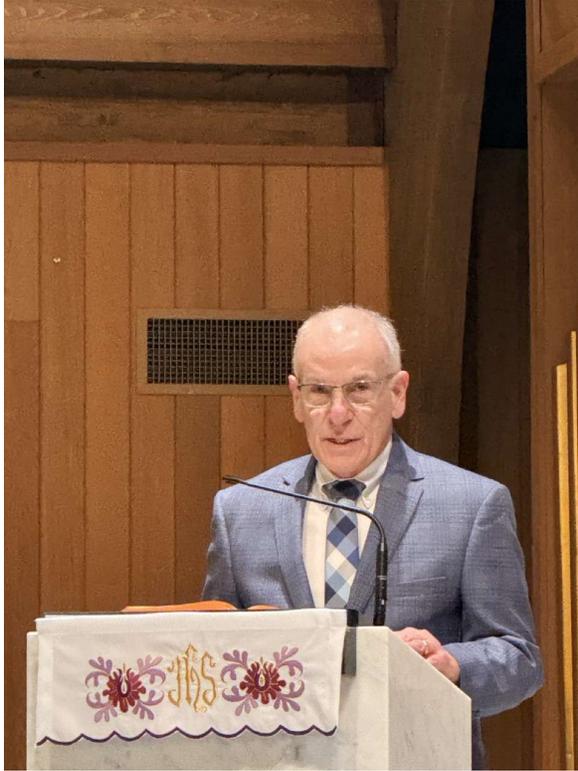
May Bob rest in the peace of Christ. Please keep Bob, Terry, and their loved ones in your prayers.



*Funeral Arrangements*

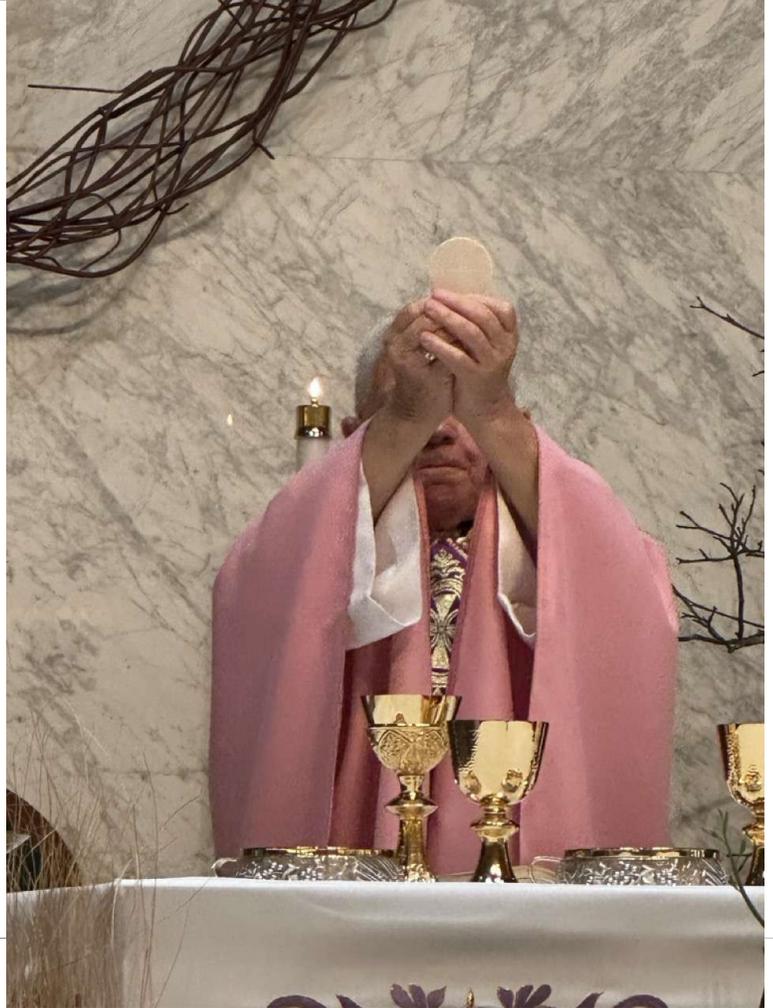
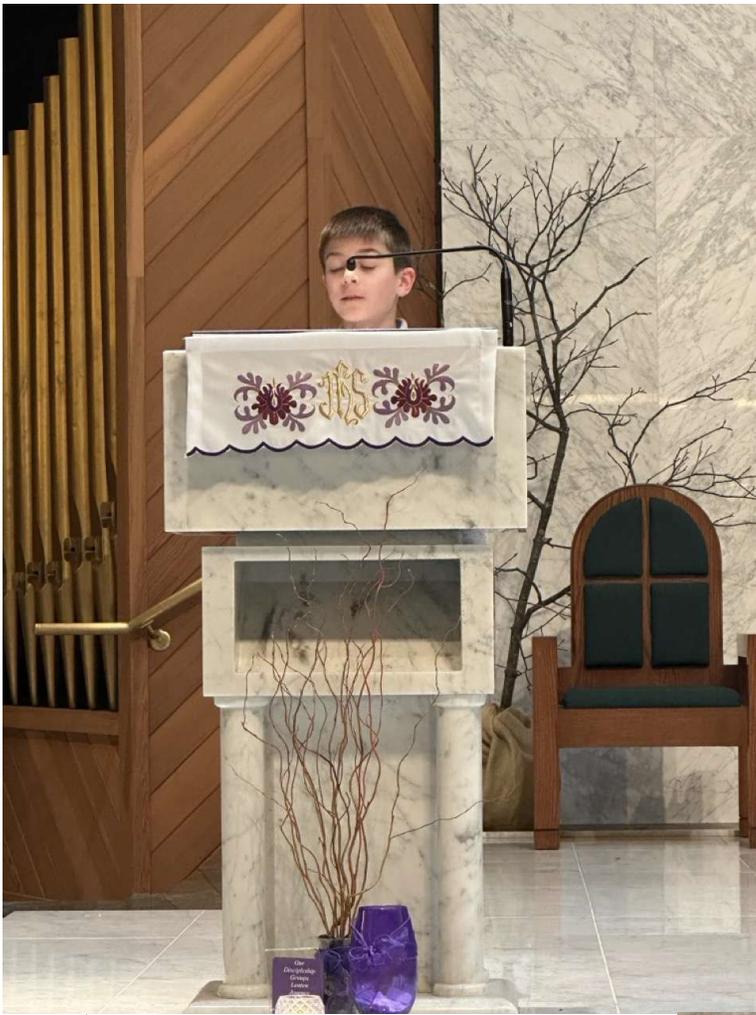
# *Memories that Share Our Story...*

*7:30 am Mass*



*Family Mass*





## *A Final Thought...*

*"God calls us out of the places where we feel most secure, out of our well-worn routines, out of the familiar roles we cling to, to step into the messiness of authentic relationships with real people. He invites us to love people who frustrate us, to forgive those who have wounded us, to speak truth when it would be easier to stay silent, to be present to someone else's suffering when we would rather retreat back to comfort. This is the work of being remade..."*

*And so today, we ponder, where in your life right now is God shaping you? How are you being stretched? How are you being called to love like the Father?"*

*Sister Miriam (Hallow Lent Pray40: The Return)*

