

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Sunday, January 26, 2020
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time



PARISH STAFF

Father Abuchi F. Nwosu Pastor
fatherabuchi@aol.com
Father Peter Oddo Weekend Assistant
Deacon Anthony Barile
Deacon Al Kucinski
Deacon Edward Muller
Dan Salvatore Coordinator of Religious Education
Caroline Mazzola Secretary
Ann Johnson Secretary

PARISH OFFICE

203 Newton-Swartzwood Road • Swartzwood, NJ 07860

Hours 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Phone 973-383-3566

Fax 973-383-3831

Email mtcarmelswartzwood@gmail.com

Web www.olmcswartzwood.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

Hours 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Phone 973-579-2355

Email olmcced@gmail.com

OLMC JOY CLUB (Just Older Youth)

Patricia Cholasta 973-534-7733

YOUTH MINISTER

Aneesha Begraft mtcarmelyouths@gmail.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, Council 9920

Vincent Kornmeyer Grand Knight
olmckofc9920@gmail.com

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 7:30, 9:00 & 11:00 am

DAILY MASSES

Monday-Saturday 8:30 am (except Wednesday)

Wednesday 7:00 pm

First Friday Mass 2:00 pm

@Homestead Nursing Home

Holy Days 8:30 am & 7:00 pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:15 - 4:45 pm

SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM, MARRIAGE & ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the office to arrange.

Masses for the Week 

Saturday, January 25 – Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle

ACTS 22:3-16 or ACTS 9:1-22 / MK 16:15-18

8:30 am Intentions of Elizabeth Johnson
by Ron & Ann Johnson

5:00 pm Doug Ernst
by Dan & Dina Salvatore

Sunday, January 26

IS 8:23—9:3 / 1 COR 1:10-13, 17 / MT 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

7:30 am Rich Sinski
by Jo Ann Lacovara-Friel

9:00 am Fr. John Quinlan
by Parish Staff

Michael Sugar
by Marcy Sugar

11:00 am Mary Hodak
by Parish Staff

Monday, January 27

2 SM 5:1-7, 10 / MK 3:22-30

8:30 am Intentions of Judy Hodak
by Parish Staff

Tuesday, January 28 – Memorial of Saint Thomas Aquinas, priest & doctor of the Church

2 SM 6:12B-15, 17-19 / MK 3:31-35

8:30 am Karl Weisser
by Deacon Ed & Mary Lou Muller

Wednesday, January 29

2 SM 7:4-17 / MK 4:1-20

7:00 pm Intentions of Eufrasia Conca
by Parish Staff

Thursday, January 30

2 SM 7:18-19, 24-29 / MK 4:21-25

8:30 am Vincent Gentile
by Gentile Family

Friday, January 31

2 SM 11:1-4A, 5-10A, 13-17 / MK 4:26-34

8:30 am Philomena Nazzaro
by Ray & Marie Nazzaro

Saturday, February 1

2 SM 12:1-7A, 10-17 / MK 4:35-41

8:30 am Intentions of James Stadelman
by Ron & Ann Johnson

5:00 pm Doug Ernst
by Deacon Ed & Mary Lou Muller

Sunday, January 26

IS 8:23—9:3 / 1 COR 1:10-13, 17 / MT 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

7:30 am Edward Muller, Sr.
by Deacon Ed & Mary Lou Muller

9:00 am Gerard Kick
by Edmund Heinsohn

11:00 am Intentions of Lee Swiatek
by Ron & Ann Johnson

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

Ann Bott, Walter & Concetta Brock Jr., Bradley Burchfield, Ted Cassera, Joseph Colon, Olivia Compton, Fr. Angelus Croce, Stephanie Cuomo, Ingrid Diaz, Kara Deserto, Ray Doyle, Richard Hennings, Barbara Ingallinera, Eva Kieger, Ava Kljajic, Michael Kochanski, Bruce Konar, Joshua Koontz, Alex Krucinski, John Kucinski, Kden LeoGrande, Pete Mahler, Maria Mallozzi, Mary Jo Manno, Deacon Charles Mathias, Susanne Martone, Greyson Christopher Mueller, Deacon Ed Muller, Mary Ellen Nienstedt, Stephen Osborn, Jason Parker, Harry Pasternak Sr., Lorraine Paxton, Peter F. Reynolds, Tammy Rivers, Charles Schult, William Schult, Carol Rock, Colleen Romano, Olga Romeo, Linda Ross, Rose Marie Sciascia, Carole Salvatore, John Samsock, Greg Schmiditty, Marianne Skrocki, Debbie Smith, Stephanie, Andrew Sorce, Richie Sorce, Dale Swoboda, Roberta Treptau, Connie VanHoven, David & Vince Ventresca, Fred Worman, Brooke Zaleski

A GOOD STEWARD

Sunday, January 19	\$ 2,097.00
Online Giving	\$ 250.00

Thank you for your generosity!

*This Week the
Sanctuary Lamp Burns for
Neita Green*



WOMEN AND MEN OF THE ARMED FORCES

We ask God the Father, through the intercession of St. Michael the Archangel, to protect all the men and women in our Armed Forces. May they be brought back safely to those whom they love: Major Brandon Bennett, NJ Army National Guard (Federal); Larisa Furs, US Navy; Lt. Jason Gieniewski, US Army; Pvt. Daniel Michael Mobilio, Army; Captain Richi M. Pazdzierski, US Army; Captain Jane Petrick, Army; Lt. Daniel T. Pevarnik, Jr., National Guard; Pvt. Chance Phillips, Army; Captain Cheryl Ryan, US Army; Seaman Recruit Tyler Joseph Salonia; Ethan Swartz; Michael Valeich, Staff Sergeant; Pvt. Kyle Titus, US Army; Pvt. Zachary Wharton, Robert Williams, Airman



Modern Obstacles to a Healthy Marriage

It's cliché to lament divorce statistics, but in an attempt to combat the problem of rising divorce rates and declining marriage rates, let's take a look at some cultural problems that can be obstacles to healthy marriages.

1. We have a mixed-up idea of married love.

It's normal to go into marriage with some expectation of romance and lovey-dovey stuff. After all, that's how people wind up wanting to get married in the first place. They fall in love, they have a romantic relationship, and they are so crazy about each other that they can't wait to start "together forever." That's awesome. That's fun. That's how God intends for couples to begin.

Every healthy marriage, no matter what stage its in, does have some measure of romantic love. Just as people have different personalities, though, different marriages do too, and most marriages don't maintain that full-force "romantic" feeling forever. And we should not expect them to.

When people mix up married love with romantic love, they wrongly feel that their marriage is in decline when the romance begins to fade. There are fewer rose-petal baths and more insurance premiums. There are no more love songs and an awful lot of day-to-day drudgery.

Fading romance in a culture that tells couples they can quit when it gets hard, leave when they "fall out of love," or their spouse "doesn't make them happy anymore," is a recipe for discouragement and the kinds of negative, selfish thoughts that can lead to divorce.

2. We fail at self-giving love.

This is a problem I have observed even among very "faithful" Catholics who know and love a lot about their faith. Somehow, we as a Church have failed to help some husbands and wives hear and understand that their call to marriage is a call to make a total gift of self to their spouse.

St. John Paul II emphasizes the importance of "self-gift" in Gaudium et Spes: "Man, who is the only creature on earth which God willed for itself, cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself."

That "sincere gift of self" he mentions is a daily call to sacrifice, and I will let you in on a little secret: It's not feel-good stuff. It hurts. Like sacrifice always does. That's why they call it sacrifice.

In my own life, I have seen what look like "perfect" marriages on the outside fall apart on the inside because of a failure of one or both of the spouses to recognize this simple fact: *Love comes first*. Charity above all things. You can be an otherwise "perfect" Catholic couple—earning a decent living, setting up a home, having children and educating them well—but if you fail to recognize the importance of loving your spouse with self-giving love, you are failing. At the most important thing. None of that other stuff matters.

That "sincere gift of self" he mentions is a daily call to sacrifice, and I will let you in on a little secret: It's not feel-good stuff. It hurts. Like sacrifice always does. That's why they call it sacrifice.

In my own life, I have seen what look like "perfect" marriages on the outside fall apart on the inside because of a

failure of one or both of the spouses to recognize this simple fact: *Love comes first*. Charity above all things. You can be an otherwise "perfect" Catholic couple—earning a decent living, setting up a home, having children and educating them well—but if you fail to recognize the importance of loving your spouse with self-giving love, you are failing. At the most important thing. None of that other stuff matters.

We aren't all perfect at self-sacrifice, of course, and in a healthy marriage there is plenty of room for mistakes, mercy, and forgiveness. The fundamentally important call to hear, however, is the call to love one another and to fully find yourself through a "sincere gift of self" to your spouse. That kind of love isn't just "nice if you can find it"; it's what marriage *is*.

To be continued...



Memorial of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church

St. Thomas ranks among the greatest writers and theologians of all time. His most important work, the *Summa Theologiae*, an explanation and summary of the entire body of Catholic teaching, has been standard for centuries, even to our own day. At the Council of Trent it was consulted after the Bible.



To a deeply speculative mind, he joined a remarkable life of prayer, a precious memento of which has been left to us in the Office of Corpus Christi. Reputed as great already in life, he nevertheless remained modest, a perfect model of childlike simplicity and goodness. He was mild in word and kind in deed. He believed everyone was as innocent as he himself was. When someone sinned through weakness, Thomas bemoaned the sin as if it were his own. The goodness of his heart shone in his face, no one could look upon him and remain disconsolate. How he suffered with the poor and the needy was most inspiring. Whatever clothing or other items he could give away, he gladly did. He kept nothing superfluous in his efforts to alleviate the needs of others.

After he died his lifelong companion and confessor testified, "I have always known him to be as innocent as a five-year-old child. Never did a carnal temptation soil his soul, never did he consent to a mortal sin." He cherished a most tender devotion to St. Agnes, constantly carrying relics of this virgin martyr on his person. He died in 1274, at the age of fifty, in the abbey of Fossa Nuova. He is the patron saint of schools and of sacred theology.

Why does the church teach that marriage is a sacrament?

The sacraments make Christ present in our midst. Like the other sacraments, marriage is not just for the good of individuals, or the couple, but for the community as a whole. The Catholic Church teaches that marriage between two baptized persons is a sacrament. The Old Testament prophets saw the marriage of a man and woman as a symbol of the covenant relationship between God and his people. The permanent and exclusive union between husband and wife mirrors the mutual commitment between God and his people. The Letter to the Ephesians says that this union is a symbol of the relationship between Christ and the Church.

What is the difference between a valid and an invalid Catholic marriage?

Just as individual states have certain requirements for civil marriage (e.g., a marriage license, blood tests), the Catholic Church also has requirements before Catholics can be considered validly married in the eyes of the Church. A valid Catholic marriage results from four elements: (1) the spouses are free to marry; (2) they freely exchange their consent; (3) in consenting to marry, they have the intention to marry for life, to be faithful to one another and be open to children; and (4) their consent is given in the presence of two witnesses and before a properly authorized Church minister. Exceptions to the last requirement must be approved by church authority.

If a Catholic wants to marry a non-Catholic, how can they assure that the marriage is recognized by the Church?

In addition to meeting the criteria for a valid Catholic marriage (see question #3), the Catholic must seek permission from the local bishop to marry a non-Catholic. If the person is a non-Catholic Christian, this permission is called a “permission to enter into a mixed marriage.” If the person is a non-Christian, the permission is called a “dispensation from disparity of cult.” Those helping to prepare the couple for marriage can assist with the permission process.

Why does a Catholic wedding have to take place in a church?

For Catholics, marriage is not just a social or family event, but a church event. For this reason, the Church prefers that marriages between Catholics, or between Catholics and other Christians, be celebrated in the parish church of one of the spouses. Only the local bishop can permit a marriage to be celebrated in another suitable place.

If a Catholic wishes to marry in a place outside the Catholic church, how can he or she be sure that the marriage is recognized by the Catholic Church as valid?

The local bishop can permit a wedding in another church, or in another suitable place, for a sufficient reason. For example, a Catholic seeks to marry a Baptist whose father is the pastor of the local Baptist church. The father wants to officiate at the wedding. In these circumstances, the bishop

could permit the couple to marry in the Baptist church. The permission in these instances is called a “dispensation from canonical form.”

Youth Group Announcement



Please join the Youth Group for their Chili Cook-off, on Saturday February 1st, after the 5pm Mass. Please consider entering a Chili. There are sign-up sheets at the side doors of the church if you would like to enter a chili. The cost is \$10 to enter a chili, which includes tasting and voting for your favorite. \$5 to taste and vote only. After all votes are in, you can eat more of your favorite chili. Prizes will be given to the top 3 chili's. Chili's can be dropped off before Mass. For questions or more information please email: mtcarmelyouths@gmail.com



Congratulations to the Kelly Family – Daryle, Patricia, Brayden, Peyton and Justin for being named the Family of the Year of Our Lady of Mount Carmel by the Knights of Columbus, Council 9920 for their dedicated service and example to our parish community.



Wine & Cheese Social

The next gathering of the OLMC Wine & Cheese Social will be **Saturday, February 8th**, immediately following the 5 pm Mass. Please join us for this great way to socialize with members of the OLMC community. Children welcome! Non-alcoholic beverages served. A donation of \$5 to cover expenses is suggested. ***Host will be present at Chili event on February 1. Say Hello! and get a sample.**





Call to serve and make sacrifice for others!

The Four Chaplains willingly went to their watery graves in order to save others. George L. Fox, Alexander D. Goode, Clark V. Poling and John P. Washington: Collectively, they have become known as the 'Four Chaplains' and are remembered for not only giving their own lives for others, but for offering comfort to those whose end was near. Throughout the Second World War, stories of heroism were commonplace. However, that of the Four Chaplains continues to be told and held up as a pure example of self-sacrifice.

The four men had met at the Army Chaplains School at Harvard University. And, while their backgrounds and faith may have differed (Fox was a Methodist minister, Goode was a rabbi with a PhD, Washington was a Catholic priest, and Clark a reverend of the Reformed Church of America), history brought them all together. In February of 1943, all four were aboard the *Dorchester*, a renovated luxury liner being used to transport troops. In all, 902 souls were on the ship as it sailed through the treacherous Atlantic waters from Newfoundland to Greenland. On the evening of 2 February, the enemy attacked. A torpedo from a Nazi U-boat scored a direct hit. The ship was doomed. Numerous stories came out of that night, mostly told by the surviving seamen. They all paint a remarkable picture of extreme courage in the face of certain death. All four chaplains got busy looking after others. They all gave up their lifejackets and refused to abandon the ship. They tended to the men who had been wounded by the explosion caused by the torpedo. For those unable to get off the boat and to safety, they offered spiritual counselling. Finally, as the *Dorchester* started to vanish under the waves, survivors spoke of seeing the four holy men linked arm-in-arm, praying aloud to the very end. In 1961, the U.S. Congress approved a new, and unique, award. The posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was conferred on all of the Four Chaplains.

In today's gospel we heard how God called two sets of fishermen to make the ultimate sacrifice for others. Jesus kicked off his ministry by leaving His hometown and region and venturing to the land around the Sea of Galilee. Notice that Jesus did not ask the disciples to do something that He did not do first Himself. Jesus modeled the discipline and sacrifice that he called forth in others. He stepped into unfamiliar territory, leaving the carpenter's shop and His mother. Probably Joseph is deceased by this time. Imagine how difficult this step must have been for Jesus, just as it is for any of us! And what was this future God called Him to embrace, anyway? "Just how much did Jesus know and understand about His role as Messiah, the dangers and demands of his ministry, and the eventual torture and death on a Roman cross? We do not know for sure, but we do know that whatever His understanding at the time, it took a huge leap of faith to step away from home leaving Mary without care or provision."

Change of location and moving far away from the family can be difficult. But Jesus did not only ask the fishermen to leave something; He called them to follow Him. It is not enough to be willing to leave a settled way of life. Jesus also called the disciples, as He calls us all still, to take up a new way. "He simply called them to change their plans, to exchange all they knew for a journey without maps, to follow Him toward a horizon that offered both sacrifice and joy. No one who makes a difference in life can do so from the comfort and safety of the status quo." These four chaplains answered God's call and made the ultimate sacrifice to save others. You and I are also called in different ways. Sometimes, we have to change location, leave our comfort zone, make a tremendous sacrifice to respond to God's call. Whatever you do in life, whatever is your career, always remember every step toward the goal of peace, justice and making a difference in the lives of others requires sacrifice, suffering, struggle and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.

–Fr. Abuchi



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you."

–Saint Thomas Aquinas