

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Sunday, January 24, 2021
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 (retired)

Dan Salvatore Coordinator of Religious Education

Caroline Mazzola Secretary

Ann Johnson Secretary

PARISH OFFICE

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YOUTH MINISTER

Aneesha Begraft mtcarmelyouths@gmail.com

DEACON AL KUCINSKI CONTACT INFORMATION

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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 23

HEB 9:2-3, 11-14 / MK 3:20-21

8:30 am Prayers for the Soul of Barbara Abler

by Patricia Cholasta

5:00 pm Richie Joseph

by Catherine Joseph

Sunday, January 24

JON 3:1-5, 10 / 1 COR 7:29-31 / MK 1:14-20

7:30 am Mary Parkyn

by Parish Staff

9:00 am Intentions of Elizabeth Johnson

By Ron & Ann Johnson

11:00 am Michael Sugar

by Marcy Sugar

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

ACTS 22:3-16 / MK 16:15-18

8:30 am Joe Funari

by Eleanor & Ellen Long

Tuesday, January 26 – Memorial of Saints Timothy & Titus, bishops

2 TM 1:1-8 / MK 3:31-35

8:30 am Rich Sinski

by Parish Staff

Wednesday, January 27

HEB 10:11-18 / MK 4:1-20

7:00 pm Intentions for Fr. Abuchi

by Parish Staff

Thursday, January 28 – Memorial of Saint Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church

HEB 10:19-25 / MK 4:21-25

8:30 am In Memory of Karl Weissner

by Deacon Ed & Mary Lou Muller

Friday, January 29

HEB 10:32-39 / MK 4:26-34

8:30 am Private Intentions

by Anonymous

Saturday, January 30

HEB 11:1-2, 8-19 / MK 4:35-41

8:30 am Healing of Dan & April Impink

by Connie Van Hoven

5:00 pm Intentions of Fr. Abuchi

by Born Again Catholic

Sunday, January 31

DT 18:15-20 / 1 COR 7:32-35 / MK 1:21-28

7:30 am Marco Mancini

by Parish Staff

9:00 am Intentions of James Stadelman

By Ron & Ann Johnson

11:00 am Steve DeAngelis

by K of C Council 9920

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Joseph Barnet, Ted Cassera, Canterbury Family, Fr. Angelus



Croce, Stephanie Cuomo, Emma Finnegan, Henry Kochanski, John Kucinski, Fr. Peter Oddo, Jennifer & Bella, Larry Domonkos, Susanne Martone, Deacon Ed Muller, George Shammass, Stephanie, Charles Sullivan, Constance VanHoven, Brooke Zaleski

A GOOD STEWARD

Sunday

January 17

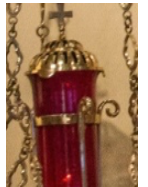
\$ 1,856.00

Online Giving

\$ 420.00

Thank you for your generosity!

*This Week the Sanctuary Lamp
Burns for the
Intentions of
Andrew Sorce and His Family*



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; Capt. 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



Why St. Joseph is a Model for Contemplative Prayer



The image of St. Joseph gazing lovingly at Jesus in his arms can provide a model for our prayer.

While little is known definitively about the life of St. Joseph, much can be imagined from the fact that he was the foster father of Jesus.

For example, as a loving father, **he likely held the infant Jesus in his arms.**

This particular image is a perfect model for us with regard to contemplative prayer.

The author of the 19th-century book *The Life and Glories of St. Joseph* reflects on this image.

*St John the Evangelist enjoyed for a brief hour a blissful ecstasy while reclining on the Bosom of the Savior but **how many times did not the Savior Himself take His repose on that of Joseph and sleep sweetly in his arms?** Every kind of divine and human light inclosed in the Heart of the Savior must in a sense have been infused into the soul of Joseph when He thus lovingly reposed in his embrace ... **we must place the incomparable Joseph at the head of all the greatest contemplatives** since he lived in a continual state of contemplation in its most exalted form.*

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, **“Contemplative prayer is the simple expression of the mystery of prayer. It is a gaze of faith fixed on Jesus, an attentiveness to the Word of God, a silent love.** It achieves real union with the prayer of Christ to the extent that it makes us share in his mystery.” (CCC 2724)

Contemplation might best be summarized by the phrase, **“I look at him and he looks at me,”** a description of prayer that “a certain peasant of Ars ... used to say while praying before the tabernacle” (CCC 2715).

Doesn't that phrase perfectly summarize the life of St. Joseph, who so often looked at Jesus while he gazed back at him?

If we want to ascend the heights of the contemplative life, look to St. Joseph as a supreme example!

Mass and March for Life 2021 - Invitation



This year, due to the pandemic, Our Lady Queen of Peace R.C. Church in Branchville, NJ, will be hosting a local “Mass & March for Life.” The Mass will be held at Our

Lady Queen of Peace Church at 10 am on January 29, 2021. All the [proper safety precautions will be in place: masks must be worn, social distancing, hand sanitizer at the doors and the church will be sanitized and ozone purified the evening before. Any overflow of persons attending will be able to attend in one of two of our parish halls via TV simulcast5 with Holy Communion brought to them at the appropriate time.

In coordination with the local authorities, we have received approval for a mile and a half march. This is not a protest so please DO NOT carry any signs during the march.

We are hoping that as a community we join and walk on behalf of our neighbors yet to be born in the womb and speak for those whose voice cannot be heard.

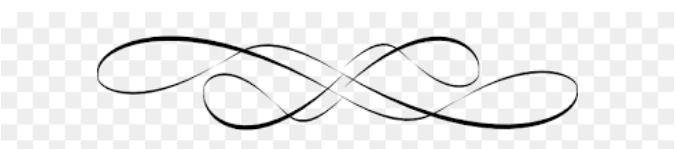
After the march, there will be the showing of two pro-life films: one for children and **Unplanned** for adults. Free refreshments available but feel free to bring a bagged lunch.

For more information, please contact Our Lady Queen of Peace office: (973)948-3185.

Quote of the Week:

“Bad company ruins good morals.”

—St. Paul the Apostle





The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle – January 25th

St. Paul the Apostle was the greatest of the early Christian missionaries. He first appears in the Acts of the Apostles under the name of Saul. Saul was raised in the Jewish faith as a Pharisee trained in the strict observance of God's Law. He believed the Law should be obeyed by himself and all Jews. Saul was upset by the early Christian Church, believing that the early Christians had broken away from their Jewish traditions. He actively persecuted the Church in Jerusalem. As the first Christian martyr Stephen was being stoned to death, Saul watched the cloaks of the persecutors (Acts 7:58).

Paul then traveled to Damascus to further persecute early Christians. On the road to Damascus Saul had an encounter with the Risen Jesus Christ (Acts of the Apostles 9:1–19, Galatians 1: 13–14). Jesus asked, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Paul replied, "Who are you, sir?" Jesus responded, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9: 4 – 5). Jesus then sent Saul into Damascus to wait for further instructions. Saul was shaken and blinded by the experience. When a Christian named Ananias came and baptized Saul, his blindness went away. As a result of this encounter Saul became a follower of Christ. He was now convinced that fellowship with the risen Jesus Christ, not the observance of the Law, was all that was needed to receive God's promise of salvation. (Galatians 1:11–12; 3:1–5)

Saul, whose name now became Paul, went to Jerusalem to consult with Peter (Galatians 1: 18). After his first missionary journeys, Paul was called by Jesus to proclaim the Gospel to the Gentiles. He spent the rest of his life journeying on his missions, establishing local churches, and writing to them when he heard of their accomplishments and failures. Paul's letters are the earliest records of the life and history of the early Church. As inspired by the Holy Spirit Paul's letters are part of the Canon of the New Testament. As a record of the happenings in the early Church they are in invaluable record of the expansion of the Christianity.

St. Paul, we ask your openness to conversion when we hear the Lord speak to us as He spoke to you.

Assist us in responding with great faith to every invitation we receive to love the Lord more fully, to know Him more deeply, and to spread His word more broadly to those who need it.

2020 Diocesan Ministries Appeal

"Love Thy Neighbor"

If you have not yet responded to the 2020 Diocesan Ministries appeal, there is still time to do so since the 2020 Appeal Funds ministries and programs through the end of the diocesan fiscal year on June 30, 2021. Your gift is a great blessing and valued so we can serve Christ by serving His people. For your convenience, you can make an online gift at www.2020appeal.org.

COVID-19 Vaccine Registration

Go to <https://covidvaccine.nj.gov>

Covid-19 vaccines are on the way to hospitals and clinics across New Jersey. You can reserve your spot to get a vaccine now by pre-registration here. We'll ask some questions to determine when you are eligible to receive a vaccination.

Filling out this form should take about 15 minutes and the information you enter will be kept private with the State of New Jersey. Reserve your spot.

PARISH PARKING LOT & SECURITY CAMERAS ONGOING PROJECT TILL MARCH 2021

We started fund raising for the Parking lot in February 2020. Your generosity made this project a reality. We have **\$15,327.50** to reach the goal of this project. Thank you tremendously for your continued support towards the parish capital improvement.

Any amount you give is greatly appreciated. You may also pledge to be paid in installments. For safety reasons, I am also working hard and negotiating the price for the installation of the security camera in our parish property. This will cost over **\$5000.00**

Envelopes are provided for your convenience at all doors of the Church. Make the check payable to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. Please fill out your name and the amount of your contribution. Please feel free to ask any questions about this project or the pledge.

Together, we can rebuild our parish and make it safer and welcoming.

Total received to date:	\$ 65,775.00
Unpaid pledges:	\$ 400.00
Total:	\$ 66,675.00



“Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed” But any hope for a second chance?

Indeed, it is a fire and brimstone message. The above caption is not just the story of Jonah. But maybe it is also our story too. Call for repentance is the theme of this third Sunday. The first reading and the gospel today indeed invites us to repent! For instance, Jesus said in the gospel, "Repent, and believe in the gospel." Similarly, prophet Jonah in the first reading preached about this repentance to Nineveh. The first reading and gospel also shows how God called His messengers. In the gospel, He called Simon and Andrew who were fishermen and they abandoned everything and followed Him without any hesitation. Initially, Jonah rejected God's call but the first reading begins when Jonah accepted and responded to God's call to go to Nineveh. **The book of Jonah teaches us that no one, absolutely no one, is beyond the reach of God's forgiveness.**

The author of this brief book tells the story of Jonah like a parable. It is full of wit and irony. Jonah is almost a comic book character in the story. God tells him to preach in the capital city of his archenemy, the Assyrians. And Jonah promptly sets sail as far away from Assyria, and from God, as he can go. But, of course, there is such a place so far away that God is not already there, and God chases the reluctant preacher down, washes him overboard during a storm at sea, and places him in “time out” in the belly of a great fish. He was miraculously rescued. In obedience to the Lord God, Jonah set out and went to Nineveh. Sadly, he still did not go with a good attitude. Listen to Jonah's preaching. It's all full of hopeless doom and fiery destruction. Jonah never preached God's love and mercy. And yet, to Jonah's surprise and disappointment, his message resonated with the people. In fact, his preaching brought forth a repentance so profound in Assyria that everyone converted to God, from the King right down to the animals. What wrong have the poor animals done to need conversion? But they were not exempted from fasting. Obviously, the author of Jonah has a flair for witty exaggeration.

This story is not just to teach Jonah a lesson about his enemies but also to teach us reading it today. It is worthwhile to note that Ninevites are the Assyrians. They led Israel to captivity. “However, God wants Jonah to learn that just because the Assyrians are Jonah's enemy, they are not God's enemy. It is a lesson many of us find very difficult to learn, is it not? But another lesson here is everyone deserves a second chance. Pay attention, there is a good lesson for all of us here that is, no one, not even the wicked Assyrians who had destroyed Jonah's nation of Israel earlier that century, were beyond God's care and favor. I wonder if we could believe the same about the enemies of our country or even our personal enemies. Isn't harboring a wish for our enemy's destruction so much easier, so much fairer to our sense of justice? Apparently, God does not think the same. But the book of Jonah is not just about the possible conversion of Assyrians. It is also a story of how God is trying to convert Jonah but also convert us listeners when we are unable to forgive or let go. Who will be willing to forgive Assyrians for the inhumanity and crime against mankind? It took enormous grace for God to forgive the Assyrians for the evil they committed against God's people Israel, and against all of the other countries they conquered during the rise of that evil empire.”

Jonah prefers his enemies to succumb to God's destruction mercilessly. Because he felt this way, consequently he resented God's forgiveness to Ninevites. Jonah completely forgot that God who gave Nineveh a second chance to repent also gave him a second chance when he went in the opposite direction, refusing to carry God's message to Nineveh. “After he tried running away from God, after the storm, after the fish, while Jonah was sitting in his pile of seaweed on the beach, “the word of the Lord came to Jonah *a second time*.” Isn't that a wonderful phrase, “a second time”? Aren't you glad God doesn't give up on us after we fail. Assyrians-Ninevites are Jonah's enemy, they are not God's enemy. It is a lesson many of us find very difficult to learn, is it not? Who are your Assyrians? Who are the people, where are the places, where you are pushed outside your comfort zone to embrace them as equal brothers and sisters, receiving God's favor just the same as you? Who is that person you cannot forgive or embrace? Probably they need your prayers for conversion so that they can repent like Nineveh. Or you may also pray to God to help you forgive them. **--Fr. Abuchi**