

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Sunday, January 30, 2022
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



PARISH STAFF

Father Abuchi F. Nwosu Pastor
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Father Peter Oddo Weekend Assistant
Deacon Anthony Barile
Deacon Al Kucinski
Deacon Edward Muller (retired)
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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, Council 9920

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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
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 29

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

8:30 am Bob Froetscher

by Barbara Froetscher

5:00 pm Lisa Falco Giudice

by Robert Giudice

Sunday, January 30

JER 1:4-5, 17-19 / 1 COR 12:31—13:13 / LK 4:21-30

7:30 am Russell Woodhead

by Sweeney Family

9:00 am Catherine Burns

by Bill & Shawn Valla

11:00 am Joan Toriello

by Parish Staff

Monday, January 31 – Memorial of Saint John Bosco

2 SM 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13 / MK 5:1-20

8:30 am Intentions & Health for Fr. Angelus Croce

by Val Derbyshire

Tuesday, February 1

2 SM 18:9-10, 14B, 24-25A, 30—19:3

8:30 am In Memory of Edward Muller, Sr.

by Dcn. Ed & Mary Lou Muller

Wednesday, February 2 – Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

MAL 3:1-4 / HEB 2:14-18 / LK 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

7:00 pm Jerry Mascari

by John & Katrina Prior

Thursday, February 3 – Feast of St. Blaise

1 KGS 2:1-4, 10-12 / MK 6:7-13

8:30 am Amarilis Torres

by C.Tirado

Friday, February 4

SIR 47:2-11 / MK 6:14-29

8:30 am Amarilis Torres

by C.Tirado

Saturday, February 5 – Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

1 KGS 3:4-13 / MK 6:30-34

8:30 am Amarilis Torres

by C.Tirado

5:00 pm Thanksgiving for Graces Received

by Marty & Mary Ann Chapkosky

Sunday, February 6

IS 6:1-2A, 3-8 / 1 COR 15:1-11 / LK 5:1-11

7:30 am Deceased Members of Muller & Weisser Families

by Dcn. Ed & Mary Lou Muller

9:00 am Amarilis Torres

by C.Tirado

11:00 am Gail Sullivan

by Charles Sullivan

Please Remember To Pray For The Following:



Brianna Rose, Colleen Apter, Ted Cassera, Matt Chapkosky, Fr. Angelus Croce, Stephanie Cuomo, John, Joe Curulli, Marie Curulli, Larry Dmonkos, Emma Finnegan, Jason,

Henry Kochanski, Bruce Konar, Susanne Martone, Mike Maldonado, Deacon Ed Muller, Yvette Murphy, Fr. Peter Oddo, Madelyn Patton, Joseph and Rosemary Sciascia, George Shammas, Stephanie, Charles Sullivan, Constance Van Hoven

This Week the Sanctuary Lamp Burns for the Intentions of Marie Curulli



A GOOD STEWARD

January 23

\$ 2,180.63

Online Giving

\$ 465.00

Thank you for your generosity!

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: Captain Jason Gieniewski, US Army.



Scripture Message January 30, 2022

The animosity of the people of Nazareth prefigures and prepares the reader of Luke's Gospel for the cross. Luke wants all to understand that it is through his death on the cross that Jesus offers God's salvation to all.

DIOCESE OF PATERSON Chancery E-News

Reminder:

Sunday, January 30, 2022 – Beginning of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Paterson

Dates to Remember:

Monday, February 21, 2022 – Presidents' Day the Chancery Office will be closed.

Schools' Office

A New Year and New Beginnings! Catholic schools in the Diocese of Paterson have remained open and in-person for most of the school year thus far. Even with the recent spike in cases caused primarily by the Omicron variant, school administrators have made herculean efforts to stay open, going remote only when absolutely necessary. They, along with faculty and staff, are to be applauded for their continued efforts to keep our students in school. Thank you!

Of course, it would not be January without the celebration of Catholic Schools Week, a national program to showcase our schools and thank all of those who make Catholic education possible. We look forward to sharing this good news with all within the Diocese of Paterson. The festivities begin on January 30, 2022 and conclude on February 5, 2022. Each school celebrates this week with open houses, special events and activities, and welcomes any families interested in learning more about Catholic education.

Finally, January closes a second marking period for our schools. Following midterms and report cards comes the winter testing session with NWEA MAP Growth. Administrators, teachers, students, and parents eagerly anticipate the results to measure student growth as well as to make adjustments to instruction to support the success of each child. Catholic schools in the Diocese of Paterson remain committed to academic excellence and faith formation which has been unwavering during the pandemic. For a Catholic school near you, go to www.patdioschools.org

Catholic Charities

Thank you for your support over the Christmas Season!

Prior to Thanksgiving, Catholic Charities was able to give out over 8,000 turkeys and roasters, 1,600

holiday meal kits, and thousands of pounds of food to those most in need. Over the Christmas Season we gave out over 10,000 Christmas Gifts mostly to children. This generosity was made possible through the generosity of many of our parishes and Diocesan faithful. We are always overwhelmed with kindness around the Christmas Season and grateful for all you do!

Feast of Saint Blaise – February 3

St. Blaise was the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia during the 4th century. Very little is known about his life. According to various accounts, he was a physician before becoming a bishop. His followers spread throughout the entire Church in the Middle Ages because he was reputed to have miraculously cured a little boy who nearly died because of a fishbone in his throat. From the 8th century, he has been invoked on behalf of the sick especially those afflicted with illnesses of the throat. Since not all parishioners will be here on Thursday, February 3, we will offer general blessing on the weekend of February 5th and 6th.

**SACRED HEART CENTER**

20 Old Swartswood Rd., Newton

First Thursday of February at Sacred Heart Center

Come join us for our monthly First Thursday Retreat at Sacred Heart Center on **February 3rd, 2022**. Our Theme will be: **“Family and the Heart of the Gospel”**.

Schedule:

9:00 am Arrival – Coffee and...

9:30 am Opening Prayer

Short Talk on Monthly Theme

10:45 am Eucharistic Adoration & Opportunity for Confession

11:45 am End of Adoration – Preparation for Mass

12:00 pm Eucharistic Celebration Lunch and Departure

There is no need to pre-register. Instead of a set fee, we will have a “free will offering” box available for donations to cover our expenses. Thank you for whatever you can contribute.

For further information, e-mail us at shretreatcenter@gmail.com. or call 973-383-2620.

How to Practice Love

There is no single way to practice love. Every relationship is unique, and each person brings their own history and needs. Some things that you can do to show love to the people you care about include:

- *Be willing to be vulnerable
- *Be willing to forgive
- *Do your best and be willing to apologize when you make mistakes
- *Let them know that you care
- *Listen to what they have to say
- *Prioritize spending time with the other person
- *Reciprocate loving gestures and acts of kindness
- *Recognize and acknowledge their good qualities
- *Share things about yourself
- *Show affection
- *Show unconditional love

Anointing of the sick

In the Church's Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, through the ministry of the priest, it is Jesus who touches the sick to heal them from sin – and sometimes even from physical ailment. His cures were signs of the arrival of the Kingdom of God. The core message of his healing tells us of his plan to conquer sin and death by his dying and rising.

The Rite of Anointing tells us there is no need to wait until a person is at the point of death to receive the Sacrament. A careful judgment about the serious nature of the illness is sufficient.

When the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is given, the hoped-for effect is that, if it be God's will, the person be physically healed of illness. But even if there is no physical healing, the primary effect of the Sacrament is a spiritual healing by which the sick person receives the Holy Spirit's gift of peace and courage to deal with the difficulties that accompany serious illness or the frailty of old age.

**Imitation of Christ's Compassion**

In the Gospels, Christ's great compassion toward the sick is expressed in the miraculous healings he performs, which heal the entire person, both body and soul. Parables such as the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:29-37) and the Judgment of the Nations (Mt 25:31-46) urge Christ's followers to share his ministry of compassion and healing and to imitate his "preferential love for the sick" and all who suffer (CCC, nos. 1503, 1506; Pope Benedict XVI, *Sacramentum Caritatis* [Sacrament of Charity], no. 22).

Solidarity with All Who Suffer

We care for the sick because we see them as children of God and part of our human family. When one part of the Body of Christ suffers, we all suffer (1 Cor 12:26). The suffering of one impacts everyone. Thus, we are called to solidarity, which is responsibility on the part of everyone with regard to everyone (Pope John Paul II, *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* [On Social Concern], no. 38; Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in Veritate* [Charity in Truth], no. 38).

By our compassion, we remind those who are sick that "[the Church] shares your suffering. She takes it to the Lord, who in turn associates you with his redeeming Passion" (Synod of Bishops, *Per Concilium Semitas ad Populum Dei Nuntius*, no. 12). We are called to comfort, pray for and with, and be in solidarity with all who are sick or suffering.

Caring for those who suffer is not a burden, but a gift. Those who care for the sick do holy and important work; they walk with Christ's suffering people and in doing so, serve Christ himself (Mt 25:31-46). Those who minister to the sick and who work to secure decent health care for all become "the living sign of Jesus Christ and his Church in showing love towards the sick and suffering" (Christi deus Laici, no. 53).

Quote of the week: "When we want to correct someone usefully and show him he is wrong, we must see from what point of view he is approaching the matter, for it is usually right from that point of view, and we must admit this, but show him that point of view from which it is wrong. This will please him because he will see that he was not wrong but merely failed to see every aspect of the question." – St. Blaise Pascal



Agape - self-giving love and expecting-nothing-in-return.

Those four letters "Love" have changed and continue to impact human relationships. Love has brought people close together but the absence of love has also created a lot of pain and problems among the people. When it comes to love, some people would say it is one of the most important human emotions" Yet despite being one of the most studied behaviors, it is still the least understood.

Today's second reading from First Corinthians 13, known as the Bible's "love chapter, St. Paul emphasizes to the Corinthian community the importance of love. You hear that passage all the time at weddings. It's also used at funerals – most famously, perhaps, at the funeral for Princess Diana, where it was read by Tony Blair. When he was sworn in as president, Franklin Roosevelt had his family Bible opened to that chapter. He rested his hand on words that proclaim and define the meaning of love. We hear about love so much, we feel as if we know it. But do we? Like love itself, this passage is often misunderstood.

In the year 56, when Paul was writing, the church in Corinth was a mess. Like I mentioned in last week's homily, it was a dysfunctional community. There was feuding and factions and finger-pointing. The early church was full of dissension and disagreement. But Paul wrote this letter to tell them: we are better than this. There is "a more excellent way." Paul speaks strongly on the power of love but, like all words, they can, well, simply be written, uttered, heard, and soon forgotten. Paul says as much in the first phrases of the chapter, "Though I speak with the words of mortals and angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or clanging cymbal." This chapter's first paragraph uses the word "I" no less than seven times. "If I speak," "I am," "I have," "I possess," and "I gain" are Paul's way of telling us that our ego, the big "I" that walks proudly through our lives often defines how we express love. All that we are and do, all that we attempt to become expressing who we are is as nothing, empty, worthless without this self-giving, expecting-nothing-in-return gift of love. So, what are these immortal, lovely words saying to us about love: its meaning, power, and most of all, its reality, in our lives?

At the very least, we confess that the word "love" is hard to define. "The New Testament uses three different words to define our English word "love." "In that sensuous, first century culture, most people first understood love as eros, from which we get the word "erotic." Eros is love with all the lights on self: my wants, my desires, my lusts, my passions. Eros is not the word Paul uses here. The second word the Greeks used for love was phileo which we would define as "brotherly love," or love given and received in friendship with others. Phileo is reciprocal or exchanged between human beings. But phileo is not Paul's word here." The word Paul uses is agape, or self-less, self-giving love. Agape is the love the New Testament champions as God's gift to us. Agape is not a self-centered or even reciprocal reality. Rather, agape is love given to another with no expectation of receiving anything in return. The "more excellent way" Paul lifts up here in Corinthians is the way of agape."

Paul now goes further attempting to define what agape is. This chapter's second paragraph begins with two affirmations about love: "love is patient, love is kind." But then Paul quickly moves to tell us what love isn't! "Love does not envy, does not boast, is not proud, is not rude, is not self-seeking, is not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs, does not delight in evil." If you please, Paul is swinging his arms with words, clearing out a space for agape. Why? Because all of us can clothe envy, pride, rudeness, self-seeking, anger, even evil in the garments of what we think is love. Agape love is sacrificial giving. Charity. That is the love Paul was describing. And it is a love the world is hungry for, especially today. So Love is about giving yourself away. But we've forgotten that. We hold back. We seek control. There "a more excellent way" to love. It is one we need more urgently today, especially in the divisive and divided days we live in. "The times are often downright toxic, and the media doesn't help. Visit Facebook or Twitter or the comment section of any newspaper and you will behold a culture of hate — an adjunct of the culture of death, where people rain down rage on those they disagree with and automatically assume the worst of everyone, often for the most superficial of reasons. "Our response needs to be "No." St. Paul says to us today as he said to the people of Corinth 2,000 years ago: no. We are better than this. There is a more excellent way. It is to bear all things, endure all things, hope all things. It is to love. But that is just the beginning—and it is a challenge even for the best of us. It is to love not only those we know, but those we don't. To love not only those we like, but those we dislike. To love not only those we agree with politically, but those we don't. It means: To love our enemies and pray for our persecutors.

- Fr. Abuchi